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1875 Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter



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GRAND CHAPTER
ABSTRACT OF
PROCEEDINGS

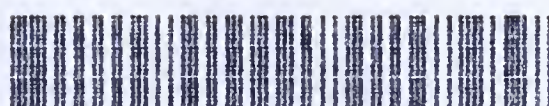
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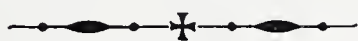


Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

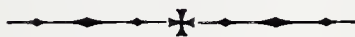
AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING.



ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

FOR THE YEAR

A. D. 1875. A. I. 2403.



PHILADELPHIA :
PRINTED FOR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.
MASONIC PUBLISHING CO., PRS., DOCK STREET.
1876.



Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, May 6, A.D. 1875. A.I. 2405.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR., | . | | <i>Most Excellent Grand High Priest.</i> |
| " M. E. G. Scribe GEORGE E. WAGNER, | | | |
| | <i>acting as</i> | . | <i>Most Excellent Grand King.</i> |
| Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, P. G. H. P., | " | " | <i>Scribe, P. T.</i> |
| " THOMAS R. PATTON, | " | " | <i>Treasurer.</i> |
| " JOHN THOMSON, | " | " | <i>Secretary.</i> |

Twenty-nine Chapters represented.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion Andrew Robeno, Jr., announced the death of Companion John M. Read, Past Grand High Priest, and that he had requested Most Excellent Grand King Companion Robert H. Pattison, to prepare an eulogy, but the Companion having deceased, he had made the same request of Past Grand High Priest Samuel C. Perkins to prepare said eulogy, which was then read, and listened to with attention, and the following resolutions unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, while mourning the death of Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Companion John Meredith Read, bear sincere testimony to his affection and devotion to the principles and teachings of the Fraternity, and especially of Royal Arch Masonry, in their highest developments.

Resolved, That his surviving Companions will ever regard the memory of his faithful services, his firm attachment, his unflinching adherence, and his self-sacrificing efforts in behalf of the interests of our beloved Fraternity, and will ever cherish his example as worthy of imitation.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter tender to his family and friends their sincere condolence. We too have been bereft.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter Room, with the jewels of the Grand Officers, be draped in mourning for the space of six months.

Resolved, That these proceedings be printed, and copies sent to the family of Companion Read, to the several Grand Chapters with whom this Grand Chapter is in correspondence, and to each Subordinate Chapter and Mark Lodge in this jurisdiction.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced the decease of Past Grand High Priest Companion James Simpson.

Past Grand High Priest Charles E. Meyer, then read an eulogy to the memory of our late Companion, which was received with attention by the Companions, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the the Grand Chapter has heard with sorrow of the death of Companion Past Grand High Priest James Simpson, one of its oldest Past Grand High Priests.

Resolved, That the sympathies of the Grand Chapter be tendered to the family of our deceased Companion in their great loss.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter Hall be draped in the symbol of mourning for the period of six months, as a token of our affection for our late Companion Past Grand High Priest James Simpson.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion Andrew Robeno, Jr., announced the decease of Grand King Companion Robert H. Pattison, which occurred February 14th, 1875, and read an eulogy which was received with marked attention.

At the conclusion of the remarks of the Most

Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion M. Richards Mucklé offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST :

It is proper at this time, with a view to perpetuate the memory of the good deeds and virtues of our deceased Brother and Companion, Rev. R. H. Pattison, that a suitable entry be made upon the Records of Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

In accordance therewith, be it

Resolved, That in the decease of Companion Rev. Robert H. Pattison, late Most Excellent Grand King, this Grand Chapter has sustained a severe loss, and the Order generally a void not readily to be supplied.

Resolved, That in the life of Companion Pattison, there was displayed the career of a pure man and good Mason ; a faithful friend ; a devoted parent ; a wise and considerate counsellor ; a kind conciliator ; a rigid disciplinarian ; an unselfish being ; and an ardent and devoted laborer in the various works of charity and beneficence, in which he was was engaged—in a word, the world has lost a good MAN.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter sympathizes deeply with the relatives of our departed Companion, and tender them its condolence in the sad bereavement which they have sustained.

Resolved, That in respect to the memory of the deceased Companion and Official, this Grand Chapter display the usual mourning for the period of six months.

Resolved, That these proceedings be printed, and a copy sent to each subordinate Chapter ; and a copy, attested by the Officers of this Grand Chapter be transmitted to the relatives of our deceased Companion.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, August 4th, A.D. 1875. A.I. 2405.

Companion ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

A report was read from the Grand Secretary, showing the membership &c., of the Chapters and Mark Lodges on the 27th of December, 1874, as follows :

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| December 27th, 1873, there were | 90 | Chapters, and that |
| During 1874, there were | 6 | “ constituted. |

| | | |
|--------|----|--------------|
| Making | 96 | in all. |
| And | 3 | Mark Lodges. |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------------|
| On December 27th, 1873, there were | 9222 | Members of Chapters |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| During 1874, there were admitted | 309 |
| And marked | 899 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Total, | 10,430 |
| Resigned during 1874, | 298 |
| Suspended “ “ | 192 |
| Died “ “ | 110 |
| | 600 |

Leaving the number of members Dec. 27th, 1875, 9,830

MARK LODGES.

| | | |
|--|-------|----------|
| The Mark Lodges had December 27th, 1873, | 2,230 | members. |
| During 1874, they admitted, | 3 | “ |
| And marked | 15 | “ |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2,248 |
| During 1875, there were suspended, | 43 |
| “ “ “ “ resigned, | 9 |
| “ “ “ “ died, | 29 |
| | 81 |
| Leaving Dec. 27th, 1875, | 2,167 |

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN THOMSON,

Grand Secretary.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, Nov. 4th, A. D. 1875, A. I. 2405.

| | | | |
|-------|--|---------|--|
| Comp. | ANDREW ROBENO, JR., | - - | <i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i> |
| " | <i>M. E. G. Scribe</i> GEORGE E. WAGNER, | | |
| | <i>acting</i> - - - - | | <i>M. E. Grand King.</i> |
| " | GEORGE W. WOOD, P. G. H. P. | - | <i>M. E. Grand Scribe. P. T.</i> |
| " | THOMAS R. PATTON, | - - | <i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i> |
| " | JOHN THOMSON, | - - - - | <i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i> |
| " | J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, | - - | <i>Assistant Grand Secretary.</i> |
| " | GEORGE S. SNYDER, | - - | } <i>District Deputy Grand High</i> <i>Priests.</i> |
| " | GETER C. SHIDLE, | - - - - | |
| " | EDWARD TURNER, | - - - - | |
| " | DAVID B. TAYLOR, | - - - - | <i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i> |
| " | JOHN J. HEISLER, | - - - - | <i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i> |
| " | WILLIAM H. BURKHARDT, | - | <i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i> |
| " | THOMAS J. DAVIS and J. J. CROUCH, | | <i>Grand Chaplains.</i> |
| " | EDWARD MATTHEWS, | - - - | <i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i> |
| " | HIBBERT P. JOHN, | - - - | <i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i> |
| " | M. H. HENDERSON, | - - - | <i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i> |
| " | EDWARD MASSON, | - - - | <i>Grand Marshal.</i> |
| " | WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS, | - - | <i>S. Grand Master of Cere.</i> |
| " | ROBERT H. VAUGHAN, | - - | <i>Jr. Grand Master of Cere.</i> |
| " | WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, | - - | <i>Grand Pursuivant.</i> |
| " | HARRISON G. CLARK, | - - | <i>Grand Tyler.</i> |

Past Grand High Priests, Companions THOMPSON, WOOD, HUTCHINSON, MEYER, BAUGH, GRISCOM and LESCURE.

Comp. CHAS. E. MEYER. *Representative of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and of the Grand Chapters of Illinois, South Carolina and Iowa.*

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.*

" DAVID B. TAYLOR, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.*

Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of New York.*

" JOHN L. YOUNG, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Maine.*

" THOMAS R. PATTON, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.*

Thirty-two Chapters represented.

REPORT.

To the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS:

The Committee on Finance would respectfully report: That they have examined the accounts of the M. E. Grand Treasurer, Comp. Thos. R. Patton, and the accounts of the M. E. Grand Secretary, Comp. John Thomson, from Oct. 31, 1874, to Oct. 31, 1875, and find them correct, and agreeing with their vouchers, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer on Oct. 31, 1875, of \$1,712.09.

We have also examined the accounts of the M. E. Grand High Priest for current expenses, during the year, and find them correct.

The accounts of the Committee on Printing and Publishing were not submitted for our examination, although the Chairman of said Committee was duly notified of our meeting.

The Receipts and Expenditures for the fiscal year, commencing Nov. 1, 1874, and ending Oct. 31, 1875, have been as follows:

Receipts.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|------------|
| Balance on hand October 31, 1874, | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$601 32 |
| Received for dues and fees from Chapters, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4,798 76 |
| “ “ “ “ Mark Lodges | - | - | - | - | - | - | 333 20 |
| Received for interest, as follows: | | | | | | | |
| On \$17,000 Masonic Loan 7 3-10 to Sept. 1, '75, | - | - | - | - | - | \$1,241 00 | |
| “ 3,000 “ “ “ from Sept. 1st to Oct. | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| 19, 1875, | - | - | - | - | - | 29 40 | |
| On \$2,800 Masonic Loan 7 3-10 from Sept. 1st to Nov. | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| 1, 1875, | - | - | - | - | - | 34 16 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 1,304 56 |
| On Deposits of Grand Treasurer, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 59 43 |
| Received for new warrants, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 00 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | |
| Total, | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$7,197 27 |

Expenditures.

| | | |
|--|----------|------------|
| Expenses of M. E. G. H. P. Comp. Robeno, | - | \$1,200 00 |
| “ “ D. D. G. H. Priests | - | 296 81 |
| Rent from Oct. 1, 1874 to July 1, 1875, | - | 1,875 00 |
| Tuning Organ to Oct. 30, 1875, | - | 50 00 |
| Salaries, as follows: | | |
| Grand Secretary, Oct. 1, 1874, to Oct. 1, '75, | \$750 00 | |
| Clerk, Oct. 1, 1874, to Oct. 1, 1875, | 300 00 | |
| Grand Tyler, Oct. 1, 1874, to Oct. 1, 1875, | 100 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 1,150 00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brought forward, | - | - | - | \$4,571 81 | \$7,197 27 |
| Stationary and postage in 1874, | - | - | - | 118 00 | |
| Postage on Annual Proceedings in 1875, | - | - | - | 25 12 | |
| Two Register Books in 1875, | - | - | - | 40 00 | |
| Printing Annual Proceedings of 1874, | - | - | - | 345 00 | |
| “ Blanks Notices, etc., 1875, | - | - | - | 92 75 | |
| “ Memoriums on Comps. S. H. Perkins, J. M. Read, Jas. Simpson and R. H. Pattison, | - | - | - | 135 00 | |
| | | | | <u>755 87</u> | |
| Repairing Regalia | - | - | - | 33 75 | |
| Draping Grand Chapter Room, | - | - | - | 104 25 | |
| Sundries, including carriages for funerals, | - | - | - | 19 50 | |
| | | | | <u>5,485 18</u> | |
| Total, | - | - | - | - | 5,485 18 |
| Leaving a balance on hand of, | - | - | - | - | \$1,712 09 |
| With which to pay the balances due on appropriations to Dec. 27, 1875, to wit: | | | | | |
| Rent from July 1, 1875 to Dec. 27, 1875, | - | - | - | \$1,250 00 | |
| Salary of Grand Sec. from Oct. 1, '75, to Dec. 27, '75, | - | - | - | 187 50 | |
| “ “ Clerk “ “ “ “ “ “ | - | - | - | 75 00 | |
| “ “ Grand Tyler “ “ “ “ “ “ | - | - | - | 25 00 | |
| | | | | <u>1,537 50</u> | |
| Total, | - | - | - | - | 1,537 50 |
| Showing a balance of | - | - | - | - | 174 59 |
| To which add amount due the Grand Chapter as per balance sheet, | - | - | - | - | 191 31 |
| | | | | | <u>\$365 90</u> |

Showing a surplus over all expenditures and appropriations to Dec. 27, 1875, of \$365.90.

Since the Quarterly Communication in August last, the Grand Lodge has issued a Six per cent. Redemption Loan, for the purpose of redeeming the 7 3-10 Loans of the Grand Lodge.

Under authority granted them, the Finance Committee of the Grand Lodge are engaged in calling in and paying off or exchanging the 7 3-10 Loan.

The M. E. G. H. Priest having been notified that the interest on Certificates held by the Grand Chapter, to wit: No. 33 for \$3,000 would cease on Oct. 19, 1875, and on No. 104 for \$2,800 on Nov. 3, 1875, and that the Grand Lodge was prepared to pay the principal or exchange the same at par for the Six per cent. Redemption Loan, a joint meeting of the Finance Committee with the Grand Officers was held, when it was resolved to exchange the aforesaid \$5,800, and report our action to the Grand Chapter for its approval. The investments of the Grand Chapter, therefore, are:

In New Masonic Temple Loan 7 3-10 Interest.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------|------------|-------------|
| First Series Certificate, | - | - | - | No. 281 | \$1,500 00 | |
| Second " | " | - | - | " 39 | 3,500 00 | |
| Third " | " | - | - | " 58 | 2,500 00 | |
| Eighth " | " | - | - | " 6 | 1,700 00 | |
| " " | " | - | - | " 7 | 2,000 00 | |
| | | | | | <hr/> | \$11,200 00 |
| And of the Six per cent. Redemption Loan, | - | - | - | - | - | 5,800 00 |
| Total, | | | | | <hr/> | \$17,000 00 |

Certificate No. 281 for \$1,500 of the 7 3-10 loan has been called, and is payable on Nov. 13th; and Certificate No. 39 for \$3,500, which is payable Nov. 28th—and as the Grand Lodge is prepared to exchange all the Loan at once, we would recommend that the same be made forthwith.

The Committee present the following estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the year 1876:

Receipts.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|------------------|
| Dues and fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges, | - | - | - | \$5,000 00 |
| New Warrants, | - | - | - | 300 00 |
| Interest on Investments @ 6 per cent., | - | - | - | 1,020 00 |
| Balance Cash on hand October 31, 1875, | - | - | - | 1,712 09 |
| Total, | | | | <hr/> \$8,032 09 |

Expenditures.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| Rent for 1876, | - | - | - | \$,2500 00 |
| Salary for 1876, Grand Secretary, | - | - | - | 750 00 |
| " " Clerk, | - | - | - | 300 00 |
| " " Grand Tyler, | - | - | - | 100 00 |
| Expenses M. E. Grand High Priest, | - | - | - | 1,200 00 |
| " D. D. Grand High Priests, | - | - | - | 400 00 |
| Printing, including Annual Proceedings, | - | - | - | 500 00 |
| Expenses Grand Chapter, Stationery, Postage, etc., | - | - | - | 200 00 |
| To pay balances due on appropriations made for year ending Dec. 27, 1875, | - | - | - | 1,537 50 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Showing a surplus of, | | | | <hr/> \$544 59 |

The Committee offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That appropriations be made for the year 1876 as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------------|
| For Expenses of the M. E. G. H. Priest, | - | - | - | \$1,200 00 |
| " " " D. D. G. H. Priests, | - | - | - | 400 00 |
| Rent for 1876, | - | - | - | 2,500 00 |
| Salaries for 1876, | - | - | - | 1,150 00 |
| Printing, including Annual Proceedings, | - | - | - | 500 00 |
| Current Expenses, Stationery Postage, etc., | - | - | - | 200 00 |

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest be, and

he is, hereby authorized to draw his warrants on the Most Excellent Grand Treasurer for the above named amounts as they become due.

Resolved, That the action of the Finance Committee in exchanging \$5,800 of the New Masonic Temple Loan 7 3-10 for the same amount of the Six per cent. Redemption Loan of the Grand Lodge, be, and is hereby approved.

Resolved, That the Finance Committee in conjunction with the Grand Treasurer, be, and are hereby authorized to forthwith exchange the New Masonic Temple Loan held by the Grand Chapter for the Six per cent. Redemption Loan of the Grand Lodge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| CONRAD B. DAY, | } | <i>Committee.</i> |
| DENNIS F. DEALY, | | |
| M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ, | | |
| A. NELSON BATTEN, | | |
| JOSEPH H. HEDGES, | | |

Annexed hereto is a Balance Sheet of the Grand Chapter, furnished by the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, showing the accounts of the Grand Chapter on Oct. 31, 1875, and the balances on Nov. 1, 1875, after the closing entries are made for the fiscal year 1875:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------|--------------------|
| Due from Chapter No. 150, | - | - | - | - | - | \$17 08 | |
| “ “ “ 162, | - | - | - | - | - | 63 | |
| “ “ “ 166, | - | - | - | - | - | 3 90 | |
| “ “ “ 206, | - | - | - | - | - | 64 60 | |
| “ “ “ 226, | - | - | - | - | - | 4 50 | |
| “ “ “ 172, | - | - | - | - | - | | 90 71 |
| Mark Lodge, No. 216, | - | - | - | - | - | | 107 70 |
| Investments, | - | - | - | - | - | | 17,000 00 |
| Cash, | - | - | - | - | - | | 1,712 09 |
| | | | | | | | <u>\$18,910 50</u> |
| Due to Chapter No. 189, | - | - | - | - | - | 30 | |
| “ “ “ 195, | - | - | - | - | - | 1 80 | |
| “ “ “ 220, | - | - | - | - | - | 3 00 | |
| “ “ “ 249, | - | - | - | - | - | 2 00 | |
| | | | | | | | <u>7 10</u> |
| Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, | - | - | - | - | - | | 18 903 40 |
| | | | | | | | <u>\$18,910 50</u> |

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced the decease of Past Grand High Priest Companion

Joseph S. Riley, Grand Chaplain Companion John Chambers, and Companion Francis Blackburne.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then read an eulogy (Prepared by Companion William J. Kelly) to the memory of our late Companion Joseph S. Riley:

M. E. G. H. P. AND COMPS. OF THE GRAND HOLY R. A. C.:

Again and again, at our quarterly communications, are we required to announce the painful fact that one of our companions has passed away never to be with us more. But when the death of one of our P. G. H. Priests, so highly respected, so deeply venerated as our late Companion Joseph S. Riley takes place, this Grand Chapter cannot but deeply feel the void created in her midst; and while I have been requested to prepare a minute of the fact of his death, I shall strive to confine myself strictly to a recital of his public and Masonic actions, leaving to my Companions to eulogize his life as he deserved it should be.

JOSEPH S. RILEY

Was born in Front street above Walnut, in this city, October 7, 1789. His father died when he was one year old, and his mother when he was nine years of age, thus leaving him on the mere verge of boyhood, an orphan apparently without any immediate relations to take any interest in his future; an orphan, who in looking over the vast expanse, greater, because of his inexperience, without a guide and probably without a friend to steer that rudderless bark even with a promise of a haven of safety.

We find him next, apprenticed by regular indenture to Mr. William Lewis, a paper maker, whose mill was located near Darby, Delaware County, Pa., and at ten years of age he commenced working in the mill as a regular hand. The usual hours of labor at that time were, in summer, from 4½ A. M. to 7½ p. M., and in winter, from 7 o'clock A. M. to 8 o'clock P. M. He seems to have remained with Mr. Lewis until December, 1803, a period of four years, when he was apprenticed to Mr. William Pierce, currier, Third street above Dock, afterwards the firm of Hammill & Pierce. He remained with them for six years nine months and sixteen days, or within two months of his majority. He then started the currying business for himself on Third street, next door to the corner of Vine, in 1812, and continued there prosperously until 1832.

PUBLIC POSITIONS.

February, 1830, Honorable George Wolf, who had just been elected Governor of this State, appointed him Bark Inspector,

which position he held for six years. He was stationed at Green street wharf, during his official term as inspector, and by his thorough knowledge of his business, and his incorruptible integrity, he raised the standard of what was termed Philadelphia bark to such a high degree that it became celebrated throughout the whole United States, and remains to this day one of the leading quotations in all markets. He was a Guardian of the Poor in the District of Northern Liberties for many years, during which time many of the poor were fed and clothed from his private purse. He was decidedly of a religious temperament, and was for many years actively engaged in religious enterprises. So far as we can recollect, he always showed a deep reverence for religion and the institutions necessary to carry out the forms of religion, without regard to sect. The importance of religion impressed him deeply; at a very early age he became piously connected with a church, and never for one day lost his membership with the church of his choice. He always maintained domestic worship in his family, morning and evening. The death of his children, from time to time, deeply affected him, and particularly his son Thomas H., who died February 22, 1858, after a short sickness. He was always reserved in the expression of religious feelings; still, his conversation so pure, and his manner so gentle, gave you an involuntary assurance that his thoughts dwelt much upon his practical religious duties, and especially upon preparation for another world. In his manner he was humble, and of late years you could observe an increasing tenderness of feeling, and a desire to impress his family with the conviction that he would not be long with them; but a short time before his death he made a prayer which to those who attended at his bedside, was like a voice from another world, and although not able to speak immediately preceding his death, yet he evidently possessed full consciousness, and fully recognized each member of his family then present. It was noticed that his lips moved as in prayer, and he gently passed away. His life, marked with uniform wisdom and integrity, his deep humility, his deep reverence for profound majesty, his habitual preparation for death, his humble trust in God, left nothing to be desired for the consolation of his family under their great loss. In 1815, he was one of the founders of St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of St. John and Brown streets, and was the accounting warden for twenty years. He then connected himself with Grace Church, Twelfth and Cherry streets, and continued for seven years; then with St. Philip's, Vine below Eighth, for two years; was also one of the founders of, and continued his membership with Advent Church until he died. He was one of the founders of the Northern Dispensary, which was organized forty years ago, and continued to take an active part in that great charity for a period of twenty-five years, and who

can estimate the good accomplished by that modest undertaking? The fervent blessings from the millions benefitted will ascend to Heaven like bright incense to his praise. He was a consistent temperance man, and whether mistaken in the means he took to accomplish his ends, or not, he worked unceasingly to accomplish his plans for total abstinence. He organized the first temperance society that was ever held in this city, in 1832, in the old Church, Race street, below Fourth, the Pastor of which, the Rev. Brother Wm. Sproule, was one of our most devoted and enthusiastic Masons.

HIS MILITARY CAREER.

In 1813 he joined Capt. Henry Meyer's Company, 1st Pennsylvania Regiment, Colonel Clement Biddle, and marched to Camp Dupont, near Wilmington, Del. The regiment was on its way to meet the enemy, but the battle of North Point having decided the campaign, he did not get into active service. He remained with them three months during that campaign, and seemed to have imbibed a great enthusiasm for military display, as he kept in continuous membership with various organizations until 1836. He raised a military company called the City Phalanx, attached to the 102d Pennsylvania Regiment, and was elected Lieutenant-Colonel; held that rank at the time of the visit of the distinguished patriot, the Marquis de Lafayette, to this country, and took an active and enthusiastic part in all the displays and attentions shown him while here. When Brother General Robert Patterson was elected Brigadier General, he was elected to the Colonelcy of that regiment, and held that position for a period of ten years. As an evidence of his zeal in this, as in all he undertook, it is said that the 102d was the largest regiment in the country, many of the companies having as many as 250 men. He was then elected Captain of the Washington Blues, and continued with them two years; was immediately elected Captain of the National Troop, a cavalry company, in 1832, remaining with them four years, and upon resigning from them in 1836, left the military service forever.

He married Miss Mary Allison Slater, November 5, 1812, by whom he had thirteen children, ten boys and three girls, seven of whom lived to man and womanhood, viz: five boys and two girls, and at the time of his death two boys and two girls being still living. He left thirty-two grand-children and sixteen great grand-children. His wife departed this life July 29, 1874, after living together sixty-two years, a married life of greater duration than the natural life vouchsafed most of us. After the death of his wife Companion Riley lost all spirit; she was to him, all through life, a stay and a guide, and when she passed away he had no thought, wish or desire but that he might be called to follow her.

In 1818 Dr. Parrish, a distinguished physician of this city, told him he had consumption, and predicted his death at or about the change of the seasons of that year. Our Companion, with indomitable energy, however, concluded not to die supinely, and buying himself a horse, commenced taking active exercise, getting up early he would, before business hours, ride for several miles into the country, and for five years he never missed a day in taking his horseback ride; storm or sunshine, rain or snow never deterred him; at the end of which time he was restored to perfect health, and for forty years subsequently his health was excellent; and I am informed that during that forty years he was never confined to his house for a single day, except two, during the time his wife was sick, by any bodily ailment; a record of health which speaks volumes for his careful habits and abstemious temperament.

HIS MASONIC CAREER.

Early in life he became impressed with a desire to join the Masonic Fraternity, and at the age of twenty-two years presented his petition, and was initiated in Lodge No. 52, A. Y. M., April 3, 1811; Passed May 1, 1811; Raised June 5, 1811; Resigned June 12th to become a member of Phœnix Lodge, No. 130, which was chartered June 3, 1811, principally from members of Lodge 52. He thus became the first member of that Lodge, and while not a charter member, and not initiated in 130, yet the honor of being its first member is his, and it was an honor of which he was justly proud—adverting to the fact often during the latter years of life. The Lodge, one of the best we have, always from the time of his becoming connected with it until the present moment, seems never to have tired showing its approval of our Companion's sterling qualities, and by its course as a Lodge, as well as by its individual members, seemed never to tire testifying to his worth, both during his life and since his death. He was elected Junior Warden June, 1812, and installed December, 1812; Senior Warden June, 1813, and Worshipful Master June, 1816. He was elected Treasurer December, 1817, and served almost uninterruptedly in that office, with accuracy and fidelity, until within a few years, when he was elected Honorary Treasurer, which position he held at the time of his death.

His attendance at the meetings of his Lodge was remarkable, and during the anti-Masonic excitement of 1831-'32, he was conspicuously careful to attend his meetings, not only of his own Lodge, but of the other Lodges then meeting in this city, and the late lamented Past Grand Master, Brother William Barger, frequently and warmly thanked him for assistance rendered him during that period of trial, when it required courage of no mean order to face the prejudice of an inflamed public opinion, with loud, frequent and vehement reports of murder attached. He

seems to have attended not through any feeling of boast or bravery, but would go quietly to the meetings, perform his part, and as quietly retire to his home; and indeed, although I have said he was conspicuous in his attendance, yet it was, after all, only the quiet regularity of his attention to duties, when so many faltered by the wayside, that made him so. He was a useful and honored member of our R.W. Grand Lodge for a great number of years, and although he never held office therein, he was probably more valuable on that account, being able to give his assistance upon the most important committees. He took a very active part in rebuilding the Masonic Hall, on Chestnut street, after what is termed the great fire, in which the old Hall was consumed, and also took a leading part in the building of the Hall which we have so recently vacated. His labors to secure the erection of the building and the final liquidation of the debt were unceasing and intelligent, and were finally, as we know, crowned with success.

He has been for many years Chairman of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund, by the repeated elections by his Brethren of the R. W. Grand Lodge, and so well has that fund been managed, that from a small beginning, by a number of Lodges, it has grown into a power celebrated among our Brethren over the whole of the United States, and indeed, beyond the confines of this continent, carrying innumerable blessings to the families of many deceased Master Masons, and earning the pure prayers of the widow and orphan from every clime, and making our Order blessed and holy in her great charity; but how much more blessed is he who, without hope of fee or reward, has unselfishly given years of his time to perfect that noble undertaking for the benefit of the humble and the helpless.

While Worshipful Master of his Lodge, he presented his application to Harmony Chapter, No 52, H. R. A. Masons December 4, 1816, and was approved and exalted January 1, 1817. At that time it will be remembered, the working of the Mark Master and M. E. Master's Degree were not as now, hence no reference to those Degrees upon our books. He seems to have thrown himself, with his accustomed energy, into assisting the Chapter, for we shortly find him appointed to revise the By-Laws of the Chapter. He was soon selected to fill the chairs. He was elected High Priest of his Chapter December 7, 1821, and re-elected December 6, 1822; December 5, 1823, was elected Secretary, and served continuously upwards of fifty years, until within a short period, when his declining powers made it incumbent upon him to decline a re-election, when he was by the unanimous vote of his Companions of the Chapter made Honorary Secretary, with the regular salary attached, which position he held until his death; at the meeting held October 7, 1859, [it being his 70th birthday, there was some very interesting cere-

monies. He made a few remarks, and the members, one and all, came forward to speak fraternal words of congratulation and encouragement to the hale old hero which seems to have made a profound impression upon his mind. His first appearance in the Grand Chapter was in May, 1821, from which period he was an active participant in all its doings, serving upon all its most important committees.

He was elected Grand Scribe in November, 1825; King November, 1826; High Priest November, 1827; Secretary, November 1828; and was re-elected in 1829, '30, '31, '32, '33, '34, '35 and '36, and in 1837 declined a re-election. The bent of his mind for assisting the poor and needy can be traced through his whole life. In 1821 he strenuously endeavored to induce the M. E. Grand Chapter to create a charity fund for the widows and orphans of deceased Royal Arch Masons, and while at the time was partially successful, had finally to abandon the project for want of means. He joined Mary Commandery in 1869, and for a man of his years, was remarkable for the interest he took in all its doings. Finally, the punctuality of his attendance at the meetings of the Masonic bodies of which he was a member, was remarkable until within a very short period, and many will remember that in the Masonic Hall, Chestnut street, the end of the middle line of sofas next to the R. W. J. G. Warden was always conceded to be Brother Riley's seat, and if occupied by any one before he arrived, was always cheerfully and fraternally vacated upon his approach.

Such, M. E. G. H. P., was the life of this good man, and his death was a fitting example to us, his Brethren and Companions, of the way we should properly estimate our duties. An attentive, ardent Mason; fully subscribing to all its edicts, and appreciating its great good to the human family, yet he never for one moment confounded it with his religion; keeping them separate as they should be. Strikingly great in both, it cannot help impressing us with the well balanced mind and the correct principles of our deceased Companion.

I could, M. E. G. H. P., mourn in the depths of my heart at the recollection of his many virtues and his friendship, and in the feeling of his loss I would embalm his memory in my best affections. His personal regard, so long and so warmly continued to me, I esteem one of the greatest blessings of my life. Companion Riley died in old age, not by a violent stroke from the hand of death, not by the sudden sundering of the ties of nature, but by a gradual wearing out of his constitution. He enjoyed through life, indeed, remarkable health. He took competent exercise, loved the open air, and avoiding all excesses, controlled his conduct and habits of life by the rules of prudence and moderation.

His body was interred at Woodlands Cemetery, in the pres-

ence of a vast concourse of his numerous friends and brethren in Masonry, who thus testified, by their presence, the respect, regard and veneration which they held for the aged servant of God, who had served his appointed time on earth and had received the welcome plaudit, "Well done good and faithful servant, come thou up higher."

In conclusion, I beg leave to offer the following resolutions :

Resolved, That this M. E. G. H. R. A. Chapter has learned with feelings of profound sorrow, of the decease of our Companion M. E. G. H. P., Joseph S. Riley, who for over half a century was prominently connected with our Order, and whose devotion to the principles therein enunciated, has conspicuously stamped him as a bright example, both as a father and a citizen.

Resolved, That we, in this M. E. G. Chapter, owe a debt of gratitude to our late Companion for the self-denial, industry and energy manifested by him in private life, in originating and assisting in providing charities that the whole human family might be benefited thereby, appropriately manifesting the deep hold our teaching had upon him, and for his eminence in our counsels, the wisdom of his advice, the punctuality of his attendance, and the devotion to the interests of our whole Order, make it meet that we should prominently commemorate his high character and pure life.

Resolved, That this M. E. G. H. R. A. C. extend to the family of our deceased Companion, a most cordial sympathy in their loss, and assure them of our belief that their loss is his gain.

Resolved, That this M. E. G. Chapter Council Chamber be draped in mourning for the space of six months.

This being the time fixed by the Constitution for the Election of Officers to serve the Grand Chapter for the ensuing Masonic year, tellers were appointed, who, after receiving the votes, announced the following as the result, to wit :

COMPANIONS

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| GEORGE E. WAGNER, | - | - | <i>M. E. Grand High Priest</i> |
| ALFRED R. POTTER, | - | - | <i>M. E. Grand King.</i> |
| WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, | - | - | <i>M. E. Grand Scribe.</i> |
| THOMAS R. PATTON, | - | - | <i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i> |
| JOHN THOMSON, | - | - | <i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i> |

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, December 27, A.D. 1875. A.I. 2405.

Companion ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

So much of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter at the Quarterly Communication, held November 4th, A. D. 1875. A. I. 2405, as related to the election of officers, having been read, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest made the following address to the Companions :

COMPANIONS :

The duty which usage and custom has devolved upon the Grand High Priest, in addressing the Grand Chapter, before being disrobed of his official character, is not to be regarded as a useless form. At such a period it is well to pause and reflect upon the past, and prepare for the future.

Unto Him who merits all our love, and to whom the best service of our lives are due, should our thoughts at such a time reverently ascend, while the angel reaper has been calling one and another of our Companions to their eternal rest, summoning the Patriarch of four score years, and striking from our very side all that was strong and manly, reminding how uncertain the nature, and evanescent the character of all things earthly ; admonishing how soon the hour will come, when each of us, like them, shall go the way appointed for all living. Yet Companions, through another kind revolving year, we are safely led. To God our Heavenly Father, whose mercies never fail, be our unfeigned thanks devoutly given.

The year has not closed however, as I have already intimated, without having to deplore the loss we have sustained by death, of some of the most eminent members of the Grand Chapter. We have been called upon during the past eighteen months, at each successive Communication, to announce the death of one or more of our honored Companions.

The following is the record of our dead in this brief space of time :

P. G. H. P. Samuel H. Perkins, aged seventy-seven.
 P. G. H. P. John C. Smith, aged seventy-three.
 P. G. H. P. John M. Read, aged seventy-eight.
 P. G. H. P. James Simpson, aged seventy-five.
 The M. E. Grand King Robert H. Pattison, aged fifty-one.
 P. G. H. P. Joseph S. Riley, aged eighty-six.
 M. E. Grand Chaplain John Chambers, aged seventy-eight.
 Assist. Grand Secretary Francis Blackburne, aged sixty-five.
 District Deputy G. H. P. William A. Peck, aged forty-five.

The fidelity, zeal, and devotion of these honored and much revered Companions have each in order been eloquently and appropriately dwelt upon by their Companions. Their virtues survive the grave, and are deeply written on the page of memory, as a most precious legacy, and bright example to emulate.

While we would thus drop the tear over the dust of our Companions taken away, let us be thankful to God, for the precious ones who are left.

The following is a short account of some of my official acts during the year :

On February 11th, accompanied by the Grand Officers, started for Mahanoy City, Schuylkill County, and on the afternoon of that day, opened the Grand Chapter and constituted "Mizpah" Chapter, No. 253, and installed their officers in due and ancient form.

In the evening, at seven o'clock, made a Grand visitation to the new Chapter, after which the Mark Master degree was conferred by Companion George E. Wagner, Grand Scribe, on seven candidates. The meeting was very largely attended, Companions from Tamaqua and Pottsville, being present in great numbers, evincing the greatest interest in all that was done and anxious to obtain all possible information in regard to the work, expressing themselves both ready and willing to remain all night with the Grand officers, if necessary.

On February 14th, I granted a dispensation to George Washington Chapter, No. 176, Chambersburg, to hold an election for officers of the Chapter.

February 15th, I visited Philadelphia Chapter, No. 169. The Mark degree was conferred in a very efficient and correct manner by the Scribe. Through earnest and studious attention, her present officers have succeeded in making No. 169 one of the most correct and best working Chapters in the city.

By invitation of Sylvester Bonaffon, Jr., W. M. of Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, I attended the semi-centennial of that Lodge. The event was celebrated in a very appropriate manner, an eloquent and deeply interesting address was delivered by Past

Master Brother Dennis F. Dealy, giving a history of the Lodge, from its organization, which was listened to with marked pleasure and profit by all present.

On the 15th of April, I visited Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214, on which occasion the Mark Master's degree was conferred upon Rev. R. H. Allen, one of the Grand Chaplains of Grand Lodge. This beautiful degree was conferred by that old veteran of Mark Lodges, P. G. H. P. George W. Wood, evincing all the vim and vigor of his youthful labors in the vineyard, and reminding us of that Mark Lodge's former glory.

April 23d, I visited Media Chapter, No. 234, at Media; this Chapter has been doing but very little work.

At the Quarterly Communication, held in May last, I completed the exemplification of the various degrees of the Chapter, by exalting to the Royal Arch three approved candidates furnished the Grand Chapter for that purpose, by the High Priests of Chapters Nos. 3, 91 and 169. The exemplification of the work in the open Grand Chapter, when circumstances will admit, we think the only truly efficient manner of obtaining and perpetuating correctness and uniformity, and a continuance of such a course we hope will not only be adopted but constantly pursued.

June the 8th, I granted a dispensation to Corinthian Chapter, No. 250, to hold a special election for Scribe, that office having been made vacant by death.

In compliance with frequent and repeated requests from the High Priests and Companions of several Chapters located in Luzerne county, I left the city on the 22d of June for the purpose of making them severally a visit, and was also accompanied on the occasion by the Grand officers. On the following day we arrived at Carbondale, and in the afternoon, opened the Grand Chapter in their New Masonic Temple, recently dedicated, and conferred the order of High Priesthood on a number of Companions. In the evening, made a Grand visitation to Eureka Chapter, No. 179, and delivered an address, after which the *Mark* degree, *Most Excellent Master*, and *Royal Arch* was conferred on three candidates, by the Grand officers, the attendance of the members on the occasion being unusually large. There were also present, District Deputy Companion John H. Dusenbury, and with him a large delegation of Companions from Great Bend and Honesdale Chapters. The Grand officers were received in a most flattering and kindly manner by the High Priest, William R. Baker, on behalf of the Companions of Carbondale, who on parting expressed themselves well pleased and greatly profited by our visit.

The Companions of Carbondale are in the possession of one of the largest, and perhaps the most convenient Chapter halls in the State, reflecting a vast amount of credit on their Masonic spirit and enterprise.

The following day the Grand officers proceeded to Pittston, and were received by the Companions of that city, in a most fraternal and cordial manner, and immediately taken into carriages, which had been waiting our arrival, and driven to our hotel. The afternoon being very hot, the Companions of Pittston did everything to cause it to pass pleasantly, by their unremitting attention and hospitable treatment.

In the evening I made a Grand visitation to Pittston Chapter, No. 242, and delivered a short address, after which the Grand officers conferred the *Mark* degree, *Most Excellent*, and *Royal Arch* on three candidates. The Chapter hall here, as in all the places visited, being filled to its utmost capacity, with anxious Companions, who notwithstanding the intense heat of the evening, remained in unbroken numbers until the three degrees were gone entirely through with.

On the following day we proceeded to Scranton; here also we were met by the Companions of that city, in a style for which the Companions of Scranton have been so long proverbial, and on such occasions they are so ready to manifest to their Masonic Brethren.

After being relieved of the dust and toil of travel, and having a few spare hours before the meeting of the Chapter, we were arrested and taken in charge of by the Companions, led on by Marshal Kingsbury, and his aid, Van Asbden, and fearing no danger, we followed their directions and were soon seated in comfortable carriages and driven through the city and beautiful surroundings, our guides being careful to stop quite frequently to show us many points which proved to be of great interest, causing us to return to our hotel with most delightful sensations and pleasant recollections of their kind attentions.

In the evening, I made a Grand visitation to Lackawana Chapter, No. 185, the Companions expecting us, were out in their strength. The High Priest Companion C. L. Van Buskirk delivered an address of cordial greeting, on behalf of the Chapter which was replete with earnest eloquence. I read a short address to the Chapter, after which the *Mark* and *Most Excellent Master* degrees were conferred by the Grand officers.

There were present, in addition to the membership, Companion District Deputy Grand High Priest Thaddeus S. Hilliard, and a number of Companions from Wilkesbarre and surrounding country.

In all of these and similar visits the Grand officers have endeavored to impress upon the Chapters (and not without success we hope), the importance of finished work.

During the year, I have made the following appointments, as Grand Representatives:

Lindsay Mackersay of Scotland, to be Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

Charles F. Billingsley, of Louisville, Kentucky, near the Grand Chapter of Kentucky.

William R. Bowen, of Omaha, near the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

Oren Root, Jr., of Saint Louis, near the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

On July the 24th, District Deputy Grand High Priest Companion William A. Peck, died at Towanda, one of the most eminent and talented lawyers in that section of the State, and possessing wide-spread influence. His loss is sincerely regretted and deeply deplored by his Masonic friends.

At the request of Fred. G. Wiese, Grand High Priest of New Jersey, I granted my permission to Wilson Chapter, No. 13, of Lambertville, New Jersey, to receive the applications of Morriss H. Harman and Thomas G. Armitage, residents of this jurisdiction, and also to Siloam Chapter, Camden, to receive the application of Fred. C. Goodrich, a resident of this city.

September 21st, I paid a visit to Abington Chapter, No. 245, accompanied by the Grand officers. The Royal Arch degree was conferred on three candidates, by the Grand Scribe, assisted by the Grand officers.

No. 245, although a young Chapter, shows evidence of a long and most useful career. Her officers from its organization have all of them been pre-eminently dignified and gentlemanly with every other pre-requisite to successfully govern a Chapter.

By invitation of Companion Edgar Fries, High Priest of Tristram B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243, I made Grand visitations to that Chapter, at their hall, in Kensington, on the 4th and also on the 12th of October last. The object of these several visits, being for the purpose of witnessing the three degrees of the Chapter conferred (in their native tongue), on seven Germans.

For this purpose I had previously selected the following-named Companions, members of the Grand Chapter, all of whom are recognized as being well skilled in the noble science, and also fluently speaking and comprehending intelligently the German language.

Companion John Beenken, P. H. P. of Chapter No. 52.

Companion George J. Becker, P. H. P. of Chapter No. 169.

Companion John Hanold, P. H. P. of Chapter No. 91.

Companion Peter E. Weiser, P. H. P. of Chapter No. 243.

And Companion P. G. H. P. Harman Baugh.

I had also appointed the following named Companions, members of Tristram B. Freeman Chapter, to assist in subordinate positions:

Henry Uler, Jr., Henry Scher, Charles Heigleman, John C. Geheart, George M. Hess, No. 2, and Charles Hoffmann; these are also conversant with the German language.

The above named Companions had devoted much valuable time and diligent and earnest study to rehearse and perfect the work, and for which purpose met frequently for several months, in order to give the work of the Grand Chapter its correct and proper rendering in the most minute detail.

That they have succeeded in thus conferring the Capitular Degrees for the *first time* in the beautiful scholastic German, and in so impressive and perfect a manner, not only reflects the highest credit to their Masonic zeal and knowledge; but especially on the intellectual ability and scholarly requirements that was absolutely necessary for its successful accomplishments, and for their valuable services I now desire to make this my official acknowledgment.

Tristram B. Freeman Chapter is making for herself a most brilliant record, both in regard to the character of her work and the material composing it. Her officers are fully imbued with active zeal and devotion to all that appertains to Royal Arch Masonry, and in particular in that which *seems* to advance and promote the interests of Tristram B. Freeman Chapter.

In conclusion I am happy to say as I vacate this office, that in all my visits to the various Chapters, I have found but one spirit to predominate, all aiming for the grand result as "*who can best work and best agree.*"

And now, my Companions, the time has come to lay aside the official robe of office with which I have been invested for the past two years, and install my worthy successor, and deliver him the sceptre of authority, which this night two years ago you so generously confided to me.

In doing that I do most sincerely affirm: *Whatever* have been my faults, or how many my deficiencies (and I claim no exemption), yet am I not conscious, while your Grand High Priest, of being guilty of a single act of arbitrary power or official usurpation; but shall carry ever with me the sweet assurance and heartfelt satisfaction of having endeavored to advance the best interests and, and preserve unsullied the good name of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

To the Grand Officers, with whom I have had the privilege of being so intimately associated. I can not exaggerate when I declare how very deeply I feel obligated to each for their always ready and efficient co-operation in all I have undertaken.

And fondly hope, as a farewell word, that when the last of these old familiar ties of earth are sundered, may they all be gathered up; with not a missing link, and again re-united in that fair home where peace shall wreath her chain around us forever.

All but Past High Priests having retired, Companion George E. Wagner was duly installed Most

Excellent Grand High Priest for the ensuing Masonic year, proclaimed as such and received the customary honors.

Those who retired were then re-admitted when the following Companions were duly installed for the ensuing Masonic year, proclaimed as such and received the customary honors :

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER, | - | <i>M. E. Grand King.</i> |
| " WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, | - | " " <i>Scribe.</i> |
| " THOMAS R. PATTON, | - | " " <i>Treasurer.</i> |
| " JOHN THOMSON, | - - | " " <i>Secretary.</i> |

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion George E. Wagner, then delivered the following very interesting address to the Grand Chapter, which was received with the strictest attention :

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER :

As we meet together at this time in Annual Grand Communication the thoughts of each and all of us return to him whom we had hoped would stand in the place I now occupy—one whom we loved and revered—whose record as a man and as a Mason was pure, bright and conspicuous—who had always been highly honored by his brethren and companions, and in whose loss the Grand Chapter sustained a stunning blow. Standing in the place of such a man as Companion Pattison, I deeply feel my own deficiencies and cannot but doubt that I will fail to fulfill the duties of the position to which you have so generously elected me, as acceptably as he would have done.

In assuming the station of Grand High Priest, I am impressed with the duties and responsibilities of the office, and bring to it an earnest desire to faithfully perform the one and fully meet the other, and feel satisfied that your kind charity will cover my shortcomings if I fail to come up to your expectations. I will labor diligently to maintain the proud position that this, the oldest of Grand Chapters now holds among her sisters and ask your hearty co-operation to second my endeavors. Above all, my Companions, let us strive to preserve the peace and harmony that now reigns throughout our jurisdiction, let us "lay aside all malice, and guile, and hypocrisy, and envies, and all evil speakings," then indeed will our Grand Chapter "be as beautiful

as the temple—peaceful as the lute—and sacred as the most holy place,” and the approbation of Heaven our encouragement.

At this time I desire to call your attention, and more particularly that of the High Priest of the several Chapters to the following matters which appear to me to require correction at their hands. The constitution of the Grand Chapter prescribes the qualifications of candidates for the Chapter degrees very distinctly and also the mode of receiving petitions and action thereon. It has come to my notice that several of these provisions have been ignored—that petitions have been received from brethren who had not passed the chair, with the expectation that they would do so in the month intervening between the presentation of the petition and the report thereon. In one case the petition was in the hands of the committee several months, the applicant having neglected for that length of time to properly qualify himself. I am also informed that the provision requiring petitions to be received at a stated meeting and laid over at least one month before ballot, has been neglected and petitions have in some cases been received between the meetings, put upon the notices and acted upon the first time they were ever produced in the Chapter. Let us not be in such haste to make Royal Arch Masons as to lose sight of the solemn obligations we have voluntarily taken. I feel assured that it is only necessary to call your attention to this subject to ensure its correction.

During the year upon which we have just entered the exemplification of the work in open Grand Chapter will be continued. At the Quarterly Communication, to be held in February, the Mark Degree will be exemplified. At the May Communication the Most Excellent Master's Degree, and at the August Communication the Royal Arch Degree. I cannot but think that this manner of teaching the work is far more conducive to uniformity than any other mode that could be adopted. At these meetings I ask a large attendance of the members, and particularly that of the officers of the subordinate Chapters, and will also cordially welcome the appointed officers and members of all Chapters that can make it convenient to attend.

In a few short months, my companions, this city will be crowded by our brethren and companions from all sections of the globe. Our Chapter halls will be nightly filled with visitors. Let us strive to excel each other in their courteous reception and welcome. It also behooves us to see that the highest standard of our work is attained—let no innovations mar its beauty—let the High Priest of every Chapter thoroughly familiarize himself with his duties and that of all his subordinates, and insist upon a strict compliance in every particular, with the regulations and ritual of the Royal Art.

To the officers with whom I have been associated during the past two years, I would tender my thanks for the great courtesy

and kindness they have ever shown me, and while to some extent I part with them in their official relations in the Grand Chapter, I assure them that it is not because of any doubt of their zeal for and attachment to the institution, but rather with the view of having as many Chapters as possible represented upon the staff of the Grand Chapter which I think all will acknowledge will be beneficial to this Grand Body, and also its subordinates.

As my services as your Most Excellent Grand High Priest are but just commencing, and I have not, as yet, done anything that will entitle me to a further encroachment upon your time, I will close these brief remarks, with the hope that when the Masonic year upon which we have just entered is closed, I may be able to stand here and give such an account of my stewardship as will be satisfactory to you and, perhaps, beneficial to the craft.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest was then pleased to announce the following appointments for the Masonic year 1876 :

Companions

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| JOHN J. HEISLER, | - | No. 91, <i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i> |
| WM. H. BURKHARDT, | - | " 52, <i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i> |
| HIBBERT P. JOHN, | - | " 169, <i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i> |
| WM. W. ALLEN, | - - | " 248, <i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i> |
| JNO. W. LEE, | - - | " 233, <i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i> |
| WM. H. BAKER, | - - | " 175, <i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i> |
| EDWARD MASSON, | - | " 232, <i>Grand Marshal.</i> |
| EDGAR FRIES, | - - | " 243, <i>S. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i> |
| SAMUEL W. WRAY, | - | " 251, <i>J. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i> |
| EDWARD B. SPENCER, | - | " 250, <i>Grand Pursuivant.</i> |
| HARRISON G. CLARK, | - | " 183, <i>Grand Tyler.</i> |

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Companions

| |
|---------------------------|
| REV. THOS. J. DAVIS, |
| " WM. B. WOOD, |
| " RICHARD H. ALLEN, D.D., |
| " GEO. W. MACLAUGHLIN, |
| " JNO. F. CROUCH, |
| " DANIEL WASHBURN, |
| " EMANUEL OPPENHEIM, |
| " ALEX. M. WIGGINS, |
| " THOMAS A. FERNLEY, |
| " THOMAS K. CONRAD. |

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. GEO. W. WOOD, Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
 " HARMAN BAUGH, " ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,
 Comp. JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. CONRAD B. DAY, Comp. M. RICHARD S. MUCKLE,
“ A. NELSON BATTEN, “ CHAS. W. PACKER,
Comp. DAVID B. TAYLOR.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. CHAS. E. MEYER,
“ EDWIN G. MARTIN,
Comp. GEORGE T. WIGGAN.

Comp. THOS. JACOBS,
“ R. LLOYD LEE,

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. GEO. J. BECKER,
“ CALVIN D. MOSER,
Comp. SYDNEY R. MORRIS.

Comp. EDWARD MATTHEWS,
“ HENRY J. WHITE,

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. SAMUEL C. PERKINS, Comp. ROBERT A. LAMBERTON,
“ JOSEPH T. PRATT, “ JNO. RUSSELL,
Comp. EDWARD R. WORRELL.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. WM. J. KELLY,
“ CHAS. LAING,
Comp. GEO. W. KENDRICK, JR.,
“ J. W. RIDPATH,
Comp. JAS. B. ROBISON.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

Comp. DENNIS F. DEALY, Comp. JNO. L. YOUNG,
 “ CHAS. C. DOUGLASS, “ WM. N. VIGUERS,
 Comp. JOS. L. LEMBERGER.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1.—Companion WM. H. EAGLE,
Of Marietta, for Counties of Lancaster, York and Adams.
- 2.—Companion GEO. D. HAYS,
Of Oxford, for Counties of Chester and Delaware, except Chapter 198, at
Phoenixville.
- 3.—Companion WM. VANCE,
Of Carlisle, for the Counties of Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton.
- 4.—Companion JESSE ORR,
Of Reading, for Counties of Lebanon, Dauphin and Berks.
- 5.—Companion HENRY A. WILTBERGER,
Of Allentown, for Counties of Northampton, Lehigh and Carbon.
- 6.—Companion THADDEUS S. HILLARD,
Of Wilkesbarre, for Counties of Luzerne and Monroe, and Chapter 205,
at Factoryville.
- 7.—Companion JNO. H. DUSENBERRY,
Of Great Bend, for Counties of Susquehanna, Wayne and Pike.
- 8.—Companion JAS. H. CODDING,
Of Towanda, for Counties of Bradford, Wyoming and Sullivan, except
Chapter 205, at Factoryville.
- 9.—Companion ROBT. C. SIMPSON,
Of Wellsboro, for Counties of Tioga, Potter and McKean.
- 10.—Companion ALEX. J. FRICK,
Of Danville, for Counties of Columbia, Montour and Northumberland.
- 11.—Companion GEO. S. SNYDER,
Of Williamsport, for Counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Union and
Snyder.
- 12.—Companion CHAS. R. EARLEY, M. D.,
Of Early, for Counties of Elk and Cameron.
- 13.—Companion EDMUND H. TURNER,
Of Saxton, for Counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon and Bedford.
- 14.—Companion PETER L. GREENLEAF, M. D.,
Of Thompsett, for Counties of Perry, Mifflin and Juniata.
- 15.—Companion PHILIP M. HOCKHEIMER,
Of Uniontown, for Counties of Washington, Fayette, Green and Somerset.
- 16.—Companion GETER C. SHIDLE,
Of Pittsburgh, for Counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong
Butler, Indiana and Beaver.

- 17.—Companion MADISON M. MEREDITH,
Of Brookville, for Counties of Clearfield, Jefferson and Clarion.
- 18.—Companion CHRISTIAN M. HOOVER,
Of Franklin, for Counties of Venango, Warren and Forrest.
- 19.—Companion JOSEPH W. GRAHAM,
Of Titusville, for Counties of Crawford and Erie.
- 20.—Companion MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON,
Of Sharon, for Counties of Mercer and Lawrence.
- 21.—Companion SAMUEL BROWN, JR.,
Of Norristown, for Counties of Montgomery and Bucks, and Chapter
198, at Phoenixville.
- 22.—Companion GEORGE P. OWEN,
Of Tremont, for the County of Schuylkill.

The Grand Secretary appointed Companion J. Alex. Simpson as Assistant Grand Secretary, which was approved by the Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Correspondence made a report, which was ordered to be printed with Annual Proceedings.

The Grand Chapter closed in peace.

JOHN THOMSON,

Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions of
The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.*

COMPANIONS:—In submitting this our Fourth Annual Report of the doings of our sister Grand Chapters, we would respectfully report the continuance of that bright fraternal feeling so much to be prized by an organization of men, strange to each other in all the ordinary ways of life. But grand beyond conception is the reflection that, though strangers, we can call each other Brethren and Companions, and feel that in expressing that term, we are friends, giving and receiving the confidence which requires years under ordinary circumstances to accomplish. How desirable then that we should earnestly strive within ourselves and try to impress our Companions with the necessity of never abusing that confidence—never doing anything to weaken or lessen that mystic feeling, which enables us to introduce ourselves without formality or delay.

We have received the following Proceedings:—

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| ALABAMA, - - - | 1874 | MASSACHUSETTS, - | 1874 |
| ARKANSAS, - - - | 1874 | MINNESOTA, - - - | 1875 |
| CALIFORNIA, - - - | 1875 | MISSISSIPPI, - - - | 1875 |
| CANADA, - - - | 1874 | MISSOURI, - - - | 1874 |
| COLORADO, - . | 1875 | NEBRASKA, - | 1873, 1875 |
| CONNECTICUT, - - | 1875 | NEW HAMPSHIRE, - | 1874 |
| DELAWARE, - - | 1875 | NEW JERSEY, - - | 1875 |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, | 1874 | NEW YORK, - - - | 1875 |
| FLORIDA, - - - | 1875 | NORTH CAROLINA, - | 1875 |
| ILLINOIS, - - - | 1874 | OHIO, - - - | 1875 |
| INDIANA, - - - | 1874, 1875 | SOUTH CAROLINA, - | 1875 |
| IOWA, - - - | 1874 | TENNESSEE, - - - | 1874 |
| KANSAS, - - - | 1874 | VERMONT, - - - | 1874 |
| LOUISIANA, - - - | 1875 | WISCONSIN, - - - | 1875 |
| MAINE, - - - | 1874 | GENERAL GRAND CHAP-} | 1874 |
| MARYLAND, - - - | 1874 | TER OF UNITED STATES, | |

ALABAMA.

The Forth-eighth Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Alabama was held in the city of Montgomery, Tuesday, December 8, 1874.

M. E. Comp. Myles J. Greene, Grand H. P. presiding, who made an address largely local in character but interesting in matter. The following is taken from his address, which probably expresses the condition of the Craft in that jurisdiction fully :

“It gives me sincere pleasure to inform you that the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in this Jurisdiction is not only peaceful and harmonious, but hopeful. Although the energies of our people have been borne down by the general financial depression, and as a consequence the fires on many of our altars have burned but feebly, yet with returning agricultural and commercial prosperity, we may confidently hope to see them shed forth a steadily increasing light. And then, in the true spirit of its noble mission, will Freemasonry be found co-operating with other legitimate and healthful influences, in ushering in the glad day, when, from North to South, from East to West, all hearts and voices shall unite in the loud acclaim, “Peace on earth, good will to men.”

The following decision was sustained in the Grand Chapter, which we judge was owing to the Grand High Priest's personal popularity. We think you may as well abolish the practice of sending the By-Laws to the Grand Chapter at all, if this decision is correct.

“4th. It is not necessary to submit to the Grand Chapter every by-law adopted by a subordinate Chapter. After the Grand Chapter has passed upon the by-laws of a Chapter, that Chapter may amend such by-laws according to their own provisions for amending the same, and such amendment is valid and binding from the adoption: subject, of course, to be tested, at any time, before the Grand Chapter, as to its constitutionality.”

The report on correspondence was by Companion P. J. Pillans, and was confined almost wholly to extracts or explanations of the sayings of others, without any special remarks of his own. It is courteous and kind, such as it could not help being from the pen of our distinguished Companion.

Companion MYLES J. GREENE (re-elected), *Grand High Priest*.
Companion DANIEL SAYRE (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

ARKANSAS.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas was held in the city of Little Rock, October 22, 1874, in obedience to an order from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, reciting that having failed to meet on the 8th day of October, he summons them on the above date (22d). Most Excellent Grand High Priest Samuel E. Williams presiding. He delivered an address of considerable merit and value to the Craft in that jurisdiction, but of no particular interest outside of it.

The following is creditable to our Companions of Arkansas, and will, we hope, be imitated by other jurisdictions for the benefit of those who may be dependent upon them :

“ We, the undersigned Committee on Education, appointed by this Grand Chapter, would respectfully report :

“ It is a matter of great pleasure to the Craft to see the continued manifestation of so much interest in the cause of education among the Masons of this State, notwithstanding the many difficulties that we have been called to pass through during the past year, and though the cause of education, as well as many other good works, has suffered, we are pleased to say that at present its cause in our State looks bright. The management of St. John's College by the Board of Trustees and Financial Agent meets our hearty approval. We deem it unnecessary to go into detail in regard to the financial standing of the institution, as that has been ably presented to you by the faculty and managers during the session of the Grand Lodge. We recommend that the surplus funds of this Grand Chapter be appropriated to the maintenance of St. John's College.

S. H. HORNOR.”

The report was adopted.

No report on Correspondence.

Most Excellent Companion SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS (re-elected),
Grand High Priest.

Most Excellent Companion LUKE E. BARBER (re-elected),
Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

The Twenty-first Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of California was held in the city of San Francisco, April 13, 1875, Most Excellent William A. Jannavy, Grand High Priest, presiding, and a large number of members present.

The Grand High Priest delivered an address of considerable merit.

The following from his address speaks volumes for the efficacy (sic) of the General Grand Chapter.

“On the twenty-fourth day of November, 1874, the General Grand Chapter held its Twenty-second Triennial Convocation, in Nashville, Tennessee. Twenty-four Grand Chapters were represented, and the session was a harmonious and pleasant one. Our Representative, Past Grand High Priest, Comp. Charles Marsh, was present and will, I doubt not, at the proper time report to you its more important acts. The action had at the last preceding Triennial Convocation, making an important change in the ritual, was rescinded, and a fruitful source of discord and contention has been removed. Most of the Grand Chapters accepted the change with a very bad grace, while some absolutely refused to comply with the regulation.”

The report on Correspondence is again by the accomplished Grand Secretary, Companion Charles Louis Wiggin, and like its predecessors is an able, courteous and fraternal report. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1874 being among the number.

The following is from his review of Connecticut, and is inserted in the hope that it may do some of us good at home, which, we fear, we sadly need :

“We have, in the course of our experience, seen visitors received in the Chapter in such a manner as to suggest the proprietorship on their part of some contagious disease, which rendered it dangerous to approach them. They were ushered in without welcome, and allowed to depart without recognition. Such a visit could certainly afford no pleasure to the visitor, who should, after he has proved himself worthy, be received and welcomed, not as a stranger, but as a member of our common brotherhood, and made to feel that he is among those who feel an interest in him as such, and who desire to make his sojourn among them as pleasant and agreeable as possible.”

The following also from Connecticut we think sound, and insert it entire for the benefit of some of our Companions who think, or rather act, after the manner of Companion Lewis' teaching.

“Companion Lewis speaks of the payment of dues as an innovation, although he confesses that it is in an unavoidable one. So are Grand Lodges and written Constitutions innovations upon the ancient body of Freemasonry. Masonry is progressive, and the laws, customs and usages which governed the Craft when “time

was young," have been changed to suit the demands of a more enlightened age. Much stress is laid upon the voluntary character of Masonry. It is true that every Mason joins the Order of his own free will and accord, and he is as free to leave it as he was to unite himself with it; but when he becomes a member, he incurs certain obligations which it is his bounden duty to discharge. The degrees of Masonry are conferred upon him in consideration of certain stipulated acts and duties to be performed by him. According to Companion Lewis's views, the contract should be all on one side. A Mason should be allowed all the rights and privileges incident to his relation to the Craft, but no corresponding benefits should be required of him except such as he may freely and voluntarily offer. We cannot subscribe to this doctrine. We do not understand the word *free*, as applied to Masonry, to imply an immunity from restraint, or from the discharge of those duties which the general law renders incumbent upon all; but rather that freedom which, combined with fervency and zeal, should render Masons foremost in every good and charitable work. A Mason agrees to conform to and abide by the by-laws of his Lodge, and in almost every instance, one of these by-laws is, that he shall pay a certain stated sum monthly, as dues. If he fails from inability to comply with the law, no Lodge will punish him for his misfortune, but if he fail through neglect or indifference to discharge his obligations to the Craft, it is right that he should be admonished, and, if admonition has no effect, he should be cut off as a cumberer of the soil. Brother Lewis asks us if a Mason, "after having *paid for* his degrees, and the *consequent advantages*," has not the right to decide for himself whether he will "further *pay for the further privileges of membership*?"

We answer, no! The man who *pays*, simply for the privilege of being *called* a Mason and enjoying the advantages consequent upon such a relation, has no more of the spirit of Masonry in his heart than a Chimpanzee, and is about as well qualified to understand and appreciate its beneficent teachings.

The following we endorse fully, clearly, and heartily:

"We believe in selecting for that high and responsible position the man best qualified to fill it, whether he be King or Past King, Scribe or Past Scribe, or simple member. Of all the pernicious doctrines which have crept into Masonry, "rotation in office" is the most damaging. We have seen many a pudding-head placed in high official position, which he was no more qualified to fill, than a donkey to write a disquisition upon the working tools, simply because by some unfortunate accident he chanced to be elected to a subordinate place, and it was feared his *feelings* would be wounded if he were dropped. We say, if the Tyler is

the man best qualified to fill the Oriental Chair, place him in it, and throw among the rubbish the careless, ignorant and inefficient, who are only a dead weight upon the Chapter, notwithstanding the fact that they may be invested with high-sounding titles."

Pennsylvania for 1873 fraternally noticed.

Companion WM. THOMAS REYNOLDS, (elected) *Grand High Priest*.

Companion CHARLES LOUIS WIGGIN, (re-elected) *Grand Secretary*.

CANADA.

The Seventeenth Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Canada, was held in the City of Ottawa, October 14th, 1874. Most Excellent Companion C. D. Macdonell, Grand High Priest or Z. delivered an address, the introduction to which shows him to be a man of good heart and sound discretion :

"Shortly, in fact almost immediately after the close of the last session of the Grand Lodge of Canada, our late R. E. Companion, Thomas B. Harris, Grand Scribe E. of this Grand Chapter, was prostrated by serious illness, and his life despaired of. While in this dangerous state, it was intimated to me by many members of this Grand Chapter that the approaching meeting in August was causing him great uneasiness of mind, and by postponing the same it might be the means—by removing the anxiety—of accelerating his restoration to health. Out of consideration for the eminent services rendered the Royal Craft by our late lamented Companion, and of my own high personal esteem for him, I decided to postpone the meeting of the Grand Chapter until the second Wednesday in October, well aware that in so departing from the constitutional period of assembling for so desirable a cause, it would not only meet with the unanimous approval of the Grand Chapter, but also be deemed a well merited tribute of consideration towards the suffering companion, and the distress thereby entailed upon his afflicted family."

He also reports a correspondence between himself and Companion Noble D. Larner, of Washington, D. C., relative to a Grand Representative, and we think he erred most egregiously in his refusal to at once comply with the request of Companion Larner. The circumstances were as follows: The representative of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Canada, near the Grand Chapter of District Columbia, from cause became offensive to the Grand High Priest, and a number of members of the

Grand Chapter, and the Grand High Priest courteously requested the Grand High Priest of Canada, to recall him, which he refused to do, but the Grand Chapter afterward adopted the report of the Executive Committee recommending his withdrawal and so did the just thing to Companion Larner. The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Henry Robertson, who reviews the doings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, in a brief way, but very intelligently and fairly.

Pennsylvania for 1873, being kindly noticed.

Most Excellent Companion JAMES SEYMOUR, (elected) *Grand Zerubbabel*.

Most Excellent Companion JOHN SATCHELL, (elected) *Grand Registrar*.

COLORADO.

The Proceedings of the Convention to form a Grand Chapter have been received. The Convention was held at Denver, May 11, 1875. The meeting was called to order by Most Excellent Companion W. N. Beyers representing the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. Five Chapters were represented. A committee of one from each Chapter was appointed to draft a constitution, which was reported and adopted, and which is ample to provide all the necessary working of the Grand Chapter.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for officers, when the following were duly elected:

William N. Beyers, Grand High Priest.

Irving W. Stanton, D. Grand High Priest.

Benjamin W. Wisebart, Grand King.

Francis E. Everett, Grand Scribe.

Richard C. Lake, Grand Treasurer.

Edward C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

George Q. Richmond, Grand Captain of the Host.

The Convention then adjourned, and the Grand Chapter of Colorado was opened in due form. And thus we have another Most Excellent Grand Sister, to love cherish and revere. And we, with affection unalloyed, can welcome her to all the honors and emoluments of our great fraternity.

The First Annual Convocation was held in Denver, September 23, 1875.

Most Excellent William N. Beyers, Grand High Priest, presiding.

The following we clip from his address :

“COMPANIONS:

“By the blessing of the Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe we are again permitted to assemble in this pleasant and profitable intercourse. Our number is complete. Death has not invaded the Sacred Tabernacle of our Grand body, nor has he summoned one from the companionship of our subordinate Chapters.

“I congratulate you upon the auspicious organization and bright prospects of our Grand Chapter, and the perfect harmony that prevails throughout its jurisdiction. Although the present, unfavorable condition of business has checked somewhat the growth of Masonry in our Territory, the well-known zeal, earnestness and sincerity of the Brethren and Companions give ample assurance that it will be but temporary. As compared with that of other States and Territories, the extension of Masonry in Colorado has, from the first, been most creditable in both numbers and character. Our work is almost invariably commended by visitors from all parts of the Union, and from foreign lands.

“In this connection I would recommend that the Grand Chapter, at its present convocation, make such provision as may be necessary in order to secure perfect uniformity in the work of the several Chapters within its jurisdiction. The variance is not great, but it need not exist at all.

“For peculiar and obvious reasons, the Masonic organizations of Colorado are called upon to apply the test, receive and welcome many visitors. Charity is often asked at their hands, and as often given freely and generously. More than once have we been victimized by impostors, which is to be regretted, less for the pecuniary loss sustained than for the encouragement thereby given to such vicious persons. Counseling the most unselfish friendship and liberal charity to deserving, worthy craftsmen, let us guard still more carefully against the impositions of those who are unworthy. Furthermore, let us be especially vigilant in guarding the portals of our sacred tabernacle, and see that none enter therein save those who will ever be a support and an honor to our Order.”

CONNECTICUT.

The Seventy-seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut was held in the city of New Haven, Tuesday, May 11, 1875. Most Excellent Companion Edmund Tweedy, presiding. His address, which is lengthy, is also intelligent and

interesting. He reports a number of applications for dispensation to ballot for applicants within the specified time, "all" of which applications were uniformly refused, and he adds:

"Upon petitions and conferring the degrees within the time prescribed by law. These applications have been uniformly refused. I believe that the dispensing power invested in the Grand High Priest should be exercised with great caution and discretion, and only when it is apparent that a great good is to be gained or a positive evil or injustice averted by its use. The regulations in relation to petitions and the ballot are, in my opinion, among the greatest safeguards of Masonry, and should not be set aside except in cases of great emergency, involving not the convenience of the candidate, but the welfare of the Chapter. None of the cases presented came within my limitations of a 'great emergency,' and in some instances the reasons assigned were quite trivial."

To all of which we give hearty concurrence, and believe Most Excellent Companion Tweedy has set an example which should be followed by all in authority.

The following we insert entire, and endorse every word of it. And while if we were an old stager, or expected to continue on the Committee of Correspondence, we might be open to the criticism to which Companion Tweedy refers. Yet now upon the last report we are likely to write (as we positively decline a reappointment), we again solicit our Grand Chapter to continue these reports and trust sincerely they will be conducted with such ability as many of our contemporaries are, believing that to be our duty the which will keep us before the Grand Chapters of the world with our laws, customs and usages, as they are or may be, but with the power to forcibly explain, advocate or defend them in such manner as will carry conviction to others outside our own homes, and satisfy the most intelligent of our own people; for this you may set down as a fact, that a tame or weak explanation or defense has very little power even with your own family in these progressive times, and for ourselves we thank God it is so:

"It has been suggested as a measure of economy that the report of the Committee on Correspondence should not be printed with our proceedings. I should consider the adoption of such a suggestion a serious error. I regard the work that is being done by these committees of the several Grand Chapters of great value to the Craft, and deserving of better encouragement than it sometimes receives. To it, more than to anything

else, are we indebted for greater conformity of legislation, a correct interpretation of the principles of Masonic Law, and a general diffusion of information respecting matters of Royal Arch history and government. By it we are brought into a more intimate knowledge of the thought and actions of our Companions of every jurisdiction, and are made to realize more fully our mutual dependence and identity of interests. It tends also to prevent crudeness and laxity in matters of legislation and government. The consciousness that the work which we are doing here to-day is to be submitted to the candid criticism of some of the best minds and ablest pens to be found among the Craft, will naturally induce our best efforts to make that work such as to command the approval of all intelligent Companions. It is true that the reports of some of these Committees are not themselves above criticism. But who among us is perfect? As a rule, they are worthy of high praise; and I am glad of this opportunity to record my appreciation of the labors of these Companions, who, in many cases, at great sacrifice of their personal interests, have given freely of their time and talents for the general good. The General Grand High Priest, in alluding to the death of Companion William Storer, said that his 'Reports on Correspondence gave him and his Grand Chapter a national reputation'—a reputation which I am sure has been fully sustained by his successors. We should fail in our duty to ourselves and to the Companions of other jurisdictions, and do great injustice to our Committee (inasmuch as his report can reach the Companions in no other way), if we dispensed with the usual publication. The cost is fully justified by the value of the work."

The address abounds in good practical thoughts, and we can conscientiously congratulate our Companions of Connecticut upon the soundness of the views expressed.

The following we think good so far as it goes, but it is somewhat puzzling to us in this jurisdiction. As we understand a dimit to be a full receipt of the good standing in the Chapter of the Companion getting it—that he is clear of the books, etc.—and such dimit cannot be granted until he has resigned:

"*Resolved*, That no Charter shall hereafter be granted for the formation of new subordinate Chapter, unless the application therefor shall be accompanied by the dimits of all the proposed Charter members, not made therein under dispensation: such dimits to state upon their face that they are to take effect *only* upon the granting of such Charter.

The report on Correspondence is again from the able Comp. John M. Lewis, who is fast making (and deservedly so) a

reputation equal to any in the corps. In introducing his work in the proceedings under review, he justly states some of the difficulties that beset an active business man who attempts the task of reporter; he also gives the following glowing but truthful account of the advantages of the position, every syllable of which we feel to be true, and which we affectionately and fraternally commend to our successor, whoever he may be:

“We hold it a great privilege to aid in the grand work of our beloved Order; and are deeply impressed with the belief—nay, the assurance, that the duties your partiality has, for these years, assigned to us, usher the laborer into one of the most elevated, far-reaching, ennobling and influential spheres of toil known to Masonry. Such fields of labor, such opportunities of aiding in the lofty scheme of effort to make men happier and better, are, ‘like angels’ visits, few and far between;’ and fortunate indeed is he whose time, talents and circumstances enable him to undertake the service, and achieve his full share of the reward—the consciousness of exalted duties faithfully performed, grand work well done. But time, talents and circumstances must all combine to aid the laborer, or the reward can never be completely his; and few as be the opportunities, fewer still are those who possess all the qualifications essential to the full improvement of them.”

The following we also insert, and will only say that we find upon inquiry of Companion Past Grand High Priest Charles E. Meyer that two copies of our Proceedings were regularly forwarded to the Most Excellent Grand Secretary of Connecticut. However, we cheerfully and gratefully accept your invitation, and herewith forward you a copy of our Proceedings for 1874, and will certainly see you get a copy for 1875, at same address.

“We beg Companion Kelly to understand that no slight has been intended. The sole reason why Pennsylvania has remained unnoticed—all least since we have held the quill—is, because the pamphlet now before us is the first copy of their proceedings which we have ever been favored with: and we should not have had this but for the courtesy of Companion James P. Malseed, of Philadelphia, whom we met in New York last Spring, and who forwarded it at our request, but unfortunately too late for our last report. May *we* ask light on the subject. If Companion Kelly will forward to our office (No. 20 Nassau street, New York) direct, we will take it as a favor; for our Pennsylvania Companions have somewhat novel ways, and we are much interested in their doings.”

Companion EDMUND TWEEDY (re-elected), *Most Excellent Grand High Priest.*

Companion JOSEPH K. WHEELER (re-elected), *Grand Secretary.*

DELAWARE.

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Delaware, was held in the City of Wilmington, January 20th, 1875.

Most Excellent Companion George W. Stone, Grand High Priest, reported that during the past year, "not a single occurrence has taken place that has called for any action of sufficient importance to bring to your notice."

The following shows that our Companions of Delaware are decidedly at sea as regards the work, and also shows to our mind that the rank and file of the Chapters are the Grand High Priest, while he who was elected to that position is only the figure-head. We would suggest the Grand High Priest get the work and *have that work done* in his jurisdiction. If the members like it, well, if they don't, well let them do it as directed, or shut up shop.

"The project of exemplifying the work of the Chapter before the different subordinate bodies has not been carried out, as it seemed to be impossible to agree upon a time which would suit the convenience of those who were to perform the work, and those before whom the work is to be exemplified. Therefore, it was deferred until this Convocation, and if it is the desire of the Grand Chapter to have a work that meets my approval exemplified before it, it can be arranged to have it done this evening in this room, but unless the Representatives from all the Chapters are present and can remain, it had, in my opinion, better be left to the discretion of my successor, with the understanding that it be done with each subordinate Chapter throughout the jurisdiction, during the coming year, so that all the Companions throughout the jurisdiction may be able to see the work for themselves, and judge of its merits; and thus be better qualified to express an intelligent opinion as to its desirability, because, important as it is to have a uniform work it is equally important that we have a work that shall be as nearly as possible satisfactory to the entire Craft."

No report on correspondence.

Most Excellent Companion WILLIS NOLDEN, (elected) *Grand High Priest.*

Most Excellent Companion J. P. ALLMOND, (re-elected) *Grand Secretary.*

DISTRICT COLUMBIA.

The Semi-annual Convocation was held in the City of Washington, Tuesday, May 12th, 1874.

Most Excellent Companion Noble D. Larner, Grand High Priest.

The Committee on Grand High Priest's address, reported, which was adopted. From that report, we clip the following, the latter part of which we fully agree with, and believe that when thoroughly enforced in any jurisdiction will really end the necessity for further argument, as any one who can pay and *will not* or *does not*, deserves all the odium, punishment, disgrace, or inconvenience, which the penalty implies; while he who *cannot* pay deserves, and no doubt will receive from any well managed Chapter, remission of his dues:

"Your committee, to whom was referred the address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest at our last Annual Convocation, beg leave to submit the following report:

"Your committee entirely concur with the views expressed by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in his address, and the recommendations therein made, so far as the matters referred to are proper subjects of legislation by this Grand Chapter. The recommendation looking to the expulsion of a member of a subordinate Chapter for non-payment of dues, your committee do not consider a proper subject of legislation, as that question is settled by the Constitution of the Grand Chapter; nor are your committee ready to recommend a change in the Grand Constitution in that particular.

"So far as your committee are informed, the neglect or refusal to pay dues to a Masonic body has never been considered such an offense as would justify Masonic discipline, so as to affect the Masonic standing of a Brother, further than to deprive the delinquent of membership and all the rights, immunities, and benefits incident thereto. This, we think, is as it should be. The right of membership in a Masonic body carries with it all other rights and benefits which properly belong to the Craft, and which are well understood by every intelligent Mason. The loss of membership, while it does not affect his Masonic standing, is accompanied with a loss of all those rights, and leaves him in the position of an unaffiliate, having no right to sit in such body and participate in its deliberations, nor even to visit, except by mere matter of favor; no Masonic home while living, and no right to Masonic burial when dead. The loss of these rights, and others not necessary to mention here, has always been considered sufficient punishment for the neglect of what is very properly considered by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

the very important duty of paying dues. So that, while your committee are in full accord and sympathy with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in his censure of Masons who, without any good reason, neglect this very important duty, we do not agree with him in his mode of punishment."

The Annual Convocation was held November 20th, 1874. Most Excellent Companion N. D. Larner, Grand High Priest, delivered an address, full of good advice and good thoughts, and the following we in this jurisdiction can fully appreciate.

"In compliance with the resolution adopted by the Grand Chapter at its last Annual Convocation, I have inaugurated the system of Grand Visitation to the various constituent Chapters, and I cannot refrain from stating that, in my judgment, the action of the Grand Chapter in ordering these visitations to be made, was wise, and will bring forth results from year to year of great benefit to our several Chapters, judging from the good results which are already visible from the first. I commenced the visitations on the 20th of October, by visiting Lafayette Chapter, No. 5, and closed them on the 16th of November, with the visit to Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 7. At each of these visitations, reports were made by the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer as to the condition in which they found the records and finances of the Chapter, and it affords me great pleasure to be able to report to you that in no case were the reports of such a nature as to require words of reproof from the Grand High Priest. Believing that the interest in the Grand visitations would be greatly increased by following the custom which has prevailed at the Visitations of the Grand Lodge of the District, that of having some Companion to deliver an address at each visitation, I accordingly invited Companions to deliver addresses on the occasions referred to, and, as a matter for future reference, I append hereto a list of the Chapters visited, with date of visitation and name of the Companion who delivered the address, and I take this opportunity to return my thanks to these Companions for their kindness in assisting me to render the visitations occasions of interest, and, I trust, of profit to the Craft."

The Grand Chapter was called to a resumed Convocation, December 9th, at which there was such a small attendance of officers and members, that a further resumed Convocation was called for December 12th, at which time the Most Excellent Grand High Priest was installed, and he in turn installed his officers.

The report on Correspondence is again, by Companion EDWIN B. MACGROTTY, and as usual, is genial, intelligent, and kind.

M. E. Companion NOBLE D. LARNER, *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. " LEWIS G. STEPHENS, *Grand Secretary.*

FLORIDA.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Florida, was held at Tallahassee, Tuesday, January 12th, 1875, Most Excellent Companion N. N. Berry, Grand High Priest, presiding.

Their session was harmonious, rapid, and no doubt satisfactory.

There was no address, no report on Correspondence, and nothing of general interest.

Most Excellent Companion HENRY W. LONG, (elected) *Grand High Priest.*

Most Excellent Companion DEWITT C. DAWKINS, (re-elected) *Grand Secretary.*

GEORGIA.

The Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, was held in the City of Macon, Wednesday, April 28th, 1875.

Most Excellent Companion Luther I. Glenn, Grand High Priest, delivered a very good address and reported the following decisions:

"1st. Has a member a right to dimit and remain in the jurisdiction of the Chapter? If so, what relation does he sustain to the Chapter?

"To the first, I answered in the affirmative. To the second, that the Chapter could deal with him at any time for unmasonic conduct so long as he remained within their jurisdiction, though unaffiliated.

"2d. Is a member who was dropped from the rolls entitled to visit the Chapter.

"To this question I gave a negative answer.

"3d. Has a Subordinate Chapter the power to deal with a Royal Arch Mason residing within its jurisdiction, and who claims his membership in a Chapter in another State, for unmasonic conduct?

"To this question I gave an affirmative answer, but suggested courtesy would require that the Chapter first give information to the sister Chapter of which he was a member and request their action in the premises.

"4th. Does suspension for non-payment of dues in a Blue Lodge work a suspension in the Chapter? Are Chapters liable for the dues of such members?

"In reply, I answered the first question in the affirmative; the second in the negative. My decision was based upon an edict of

this Grand Chapter, issued in 1861, declaring: 'That Royal Arch Masons within this jurisdiction can hold no Masonic intercourse with a Mason suspended by a Lodge of Master Masons for any cause whatever.' "

The Grand High Priest also in his address pays a compliment to the corps reportorial, and recommends the appointment of a Companion to prepare reports for that Grand Body, which we approve.

The following is certainly sound :

"Non-affiliation and forced membership. On this subject I am gratified to find that common sense, and a return to the first principles and practice of Masonry, are beginning to prevail. Non-affiliation is confessedly an evil. Every Mason *ought* to belong to a Lodge, Chapter, etc. But a *forced* membership is a much greater evil, and would, if persisted in, work a much greater injury to our Institution, because utterly inconsistent with and repugnant to its first principles. Ours in its very constitution is a *Free* Institution. It does not and cannot recognize a principle of slavery. But what is *forced* membership but a *quasi* slavery? No! Let him who freely comes, as freely go, if he will. When he has lost his interest in us, he will do us less harm outside than if forced to remain inside."

We are glad to find the Companions of Georgia have re-elected Most Excellent Companion GLENN Grand High Priest, as from all the indication of their work as reported in their proceedings, he seems to have given perfect satisfaction, and really to have conducted the affairs of that Grand Chapter with rare intelligence. The Committee on Grand High Priest's address recommended, and the Grand Chapter passed, a resolution, appointing a Committee on Foreign Correspondence. So next year we are likely to hear more from our Companions of that State.

Most Excellent Companion J. EMMETT BLACKSHEAR, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary*.

ILLINOIS.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, of Illinois, was held in the City of Chicago, Thursday, October 29th, 1874.

Most Excellent Companion George E. Lounsbury, Grand High Priest, delivered an address in which he gave a careful history of his work as Grand Officer, and which showed him to have been conscientious in the discharge of his duties.

“ A complaint was made to me by Salem Chapter, No. 64, concerning the action of one of its members. It appears that two members of the Lodge at that place, one a Royal Arch Mason, and the other elected to the Chapter Degrees and a recipient of a portion of them, had a partnership business, and upon its dissolution, failed to settle their business affairs satisfactorily. Disliking to go into the courts, and fully recognizing their Masonic obligations, they agreed—and entered in a written stipulation to that effect that all differences should be settled by abitation of the Lodge. The Companion had, on commencement of their business difficulties, entered objections against the further advancement of the Brother. The Lodge, after a full investigation of the affairs of the firm, unanimously decided in favor of the Brother who had been stopped in his advancement; but the Companion not being satisfied, refused to abide by the agreement voluntarily entered into, and persisted in his objection until (as he wrote me in substance) his pecuniary demands were satisfied. After considerable correspondence with both parties, at the earnest request of the Chapter, I visited Salem and fully investigated the matter, finding affairs as above stated. Here I would remark that this thing of bringing business affairs or differences into Masonic bodies for adjustment is generally to be deprecated, but, in this instance, the parties seemed to feel anxious to avoid the publicity consequent upon a legal investigation, and were fully agreed to abide the verdict of the Brethren. After a full hearing of the case, I decided according to the decisions formerly made in Grand Lodge, which coincided with the opinion of the Committee on Revision of our Grand Chapter By-laws—that the Companion must make known his objection to the High Priest, who might submit to the Chapter, and, if sustained, it should be considered valid; if not, the High Priest could confer the degree. The decision gave entire satisfaction to all the members, if I except the party objecting, who, though duly apprised of my coming, failed to put in an appearance.”

The part we object to in the above is that the Grand High Priest was induced to take any notice of the affair at all. First the Masonic part. With us when the Brother had been approved in the Chapter and received a part of the Chapter degrees, he was entitled to the balance that he was elected for, *unless charges* were regularly preferred. When the case would be heard upon its merits, and if he was guilty of any offense that we as Masons were competent to take cognizance of, the Chapter would be competent to sentence him to suspension or expulsion as in their judgment they would deem proper. But no objection would, or ought to, delay us in carrying out our compact unless accompanied

by charges, or they should immediately follow after. The business part of a dispute should in all cases be decided in a court of law, where there is *power to compel* attendance, and ability to apply proper tests to evidence.

The Report on Correspondence was again by James H. Miles, and was liberal in quotations, but sparse in original matter. It is a very pleasant and intelligent document so far as reading, but hard upon reporters who are compelled to read *every* word in order to get at what is original and what quoted.

Companion WILLIAM A. J. DELANSEY, (elected,) *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JAMES H. MILES, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary*.

INDIANA.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation was held in the City of Indianapolis, October 21st, 1874.

Most Excellent Companion Alexander Thomas, *Grand High Priest*.

The *Grand High Priest* had submitted to him and answered the following :

“What number of members of a Chapter is necessary to be present to do business lawfully?”

And,

“If ten R. A. Masons be present at a regular Communication of the Chapter, three of whom are non-affiliates, will any business transaction be legal?”

“Answer: No Chapter of Royal Arch Masons can be opened, closed or do any work or transact any business whatever, unless there be ‘*nine* regular Royal Arch Masons.’ An unaffiliated Royal Arch Mason in this jurisdiction has no rights, but the right to petition for membership, ‘except by express permission of the Chapter in whose jurisdiction he may reside;’ therefore, if your Chapter *permits* them to visit, they have a right to do so, but no longer than until a member objects. If you *permit* an unaffiliate to meet in your Chapter, and treat him with Masonic courtesy, there can be no lawful objection to his being one of the number nine, or even discharging the duties of some officer for the time being, in the ceremonies of opening, closing or conferring degrees. However, in the transaction of business he can take no part, that belongs *exclusively* to *members*; therefore, to carry any proposition, five *members* should vote for the same, because that would be the majority of the constitutional *number nine*.

“In answering your third question I believe the answer to your fourth is included.”

“CAN A MAIMED M. M. BE MADE A R. A. MASON ?

“Companion Hazelrigg, from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence of last year, submitted the following :

“The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, report :

“That at the last Communication of the Grand Chapter, there was referred to it, the following question : ‘ Under the laws of the Grand Chapter, does the loss of the right foot render a Brother Master Mason ineligible to receive the Chapter Degrees ?’” The Committee not then having time to examine the law with that care the importance of the question seemed to require, was granted until the present Communication to give answer.

“Why the term ‘right foot’ is used instead of the left, is not very clear, for if the left has any particular duties to perform, it would be difficult to perform them without the aid of the right, or if the right could be artificially supplied, with equal propriety might the left, or indeed, both ; and, if both, so might the right and left arm. How much of an artificial candidate might be used upon which to confer the degrees, is unnecessary to discuss, being of the opinion that the natural man is not only the best, but the only subject upon which to confer the degrees of Masonry.

“Was the question, whether the degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or Master Mason could be conferred upon one who had lost either the right or left foot? we think there would be but little hesitation among the well informed in answering in the negative. It may be then important to ascertain whether the Royal Arch is a part of Ancient Craft Masonry, and also whether anciently, the three first degrees contained all of Ancient Craft Masonry, for if they did it would doubtless require the same perfection morally, mentally and physically to receive any part of it, no matter how much dissevered or divided. Whatever perfection was necessary to obtain it when consisting of three degrees only, would be no less necessary, regardless of the number of degrees into which it might be divided. If it require certain qualifications to enjoy the privileges and perform the duties of the first degree, it certainly will require an equal, if not greater, perfection to enjoy the privileges and perform the duties when those enjoyments and duties are greatly increased ; so that if there is greater privileges and duties (and there doubtless is) in the Royal Arch than in the Master Mason’s Degree, there certainly should be no less ability ; or, if the Master’s Degree ever contained the essential and distinguishing feature of the Royal Arch, the qualifications to receive it should be no less in the seventh degree than in the third.

“A learned Masonic writer (Dr. Mackey) says that the essential character of the Royal Arch Degree, is the *true word*, which

Dr. Oliver in his history of the Royal Arch, says he found in a Master Mason's tracing board, of the date of 1725. Our traditions teach us that the Master Mason had that word, and he certainly had, or he never could have lost it. Dr. Oliver, who has given us more Masonic history than any other author, says that the *word* had not at that time been severed from the third degree and transferred to another, and that the Royal Arch had not then been fabricated.

"Dr. Anderson is taken by all subsequent Masonic writers as the foundation or starting point for written Masonic history. In the lecture of the third degree, as prepared by him and Desaguliers, it is said 'that which was lost is now found,' which Dr. Oliver construes to mean that the Master Mason's word was delivered to the newly raised Mason in the latter ceremonies of the third degree.

"Dr. Mackey says, 'The result of our investigations, in which we have mainly relied on the authority of the learned Oliver, is that, until the year 1740, the essential element of the Royal Arch constituted a component part of the Master's degree, and was of course its concluding portion; that as a degree, it was not at all recognized, being but the complement of one; that about that time it was dissevered from its original connection and elevated to the position and invested with the form of a distinct degree, by the body which called itself "the Grand Lodge of England, according to the old Constitution," but which is more familiarly known as the Dermot or the Athol Grand Lodge, and frequently as the Ancients.'

"Now, if it be true that the 'essential character' of the Royal Arch was originally a part of the Master Mason's degree, it would seem to necessarily follow that the qualification to receive should be the same, regardless of the number of the degree in which it is received. But as there is some diversity of opinion on that point, we will refer to the action of some of the Grand Bodies bearing on the question of physical qualifications. We have not been able to find any opinion expressed upon the question directly before us, that is, as to the loss of the 'right foot.'

"The Grand Chapter of Ohio, in 1849, adopted the following:

"*Resolved*, That it is improper and contrary to the well established rules and regulations governing Royal Arch Masonry, to confer the degrees over which a Royal Arch Chapter has jurisdiction, upon one who is not of hale and entire limbs."

"This resolution was the result of an application to confer the degrees upon one who had lost the right arm.

"The Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, in 1851, uses this language: 'We con-

sider the original rule that the candidate shall be of "hale and entire limbs, as a man ought to be," cannot be changed or modified by any changes which may have been introduced by reason of the more modern speculative character of Masonry.'

"The Grand Chapter of New York, in 1852, adopted the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That we do not believe that Chapters have a right to confer the degrees upon Master Masons who have lost an arm, or who are under disability either to receive the degrees in Masonry, impart them, or be recognized as a regularly made Companion.'

"In 1850, the General Grand Chapter of the United States appointed a Committee consisting of Companions Philip Tucker, Scott, J. Tallman and William T. Gould, to report on the physical qualifications of candidates, at its next triennial meeting, which was held at Lexington, Kentucky, in September, 1853. The committee, after a pretty thorough examination of the subject, as is shown by the report, fail to offer anything definite for action, but Companion Tucker offered this resolution :

"*Resolved*, That it is competent and Masonically lawful for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective degrees of Masonry, within their jurisdictions upon all candidates whose defects of bodily qualifications are not such as to prevent them from conforming literally to what such degrees respectively required, if in other respects qualified.'

"Companion Mackey moved to amend by striking out all after the word resolved, and insert, 'that no Royal Arch Chapter should take a candidate unless he be a perfect man, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art.' Companion Gilman moved to amend the amendment by striking out all after the word 'that' and insert, 'it is incompetent for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective degrees of Masonry upon candidates whose physical defects are such as to prevent them from conforming literally to all the requirements of those degrees.' The amendment to the amendment was adopted.

"In 1863, the Grand Chapter of New York, in attendance with the resolution it had adopted in 1852, as above quoted, decided that a Master Mason who had lost his left arm after being a Master Mason could not be made a Royal Arch Mason.

"In 1864, the Committee on Jurisprudence of this Grand Chapter, made a report on the question of physical qualifications, in which it used the following language : "Your committee would suggest that a Brother who had lost his left arm could not comply literally with the ceremonies of either of the degrees, not only in

one, but in many particulars.' And further, 'your committee further believe that it is best to adhere strictly to the old "landmarks"—that all applicants for the privileges of Masonry must be perfect, "having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art."' This report, after full discussion, was adopted by the Grand Chapter, by a majority of ninety-nine out of one hundred and fifteen.

"In the Grand Chapter of Connecticut, in 1852, a committee reported in favor of leaving the decision of the qualifications of the candidate to the Chapter to which application was made for the degrees, but what action the Grand Chapter took upon the report, we are not advised. The same year this Grand Chapter adopted a resolution leaving the question to the judgment of the subordinate Chapter. Such legislation being productive of such a diversity of decisions and confusion of practice, as to be of very doubtful propriety, to say the least of it.

"By a close examination of the fourth of the old charges, we may not only learn what are the qualifications necessary to receive the degrees, but also the reasons for the law, the principal one of which is, that all Masons should be on a level, equally eligible and able to fill all offices. A man with but one foot or one hand, or who could not see or could not hear, could never fill any office, because he could not either truly learn or teach the rituals. The law don't leave us barely to infer that these are the reasons of its wording, but it plainly sets forth the fact by adding, 'that so when otherwise qualified, he may arrive to the honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to merit.'

"There is, perhaps, no principle in Masonry better settled or more universally admitted than that those who seek admission must be free from any maim or defect that would render him incapable of learning and teaching the Royal Art; but what is such a maim or defect is not so well settled as to prevent differences of opinion, and upon which there is less unanimity than there is upon the point that he must be capable.

"While Masonry was more operative than speculative there was less difficulty in deciding the question. While it was more operative, many of its important landmarks were adopted and upon which speculative Masonry was constructed. These landmarks are unchangeable. If we may change one we may another and another, until all might be removed. If we may change the physical, why not the moral and the mental; why not take the youth in his non-age, the aged in dotage, the atheist, the irreligious libertine, the madman, the idiot? yea, why not accept the mother and sister, the wife and daughter? These must all submit to the unchangeable laws of the institution. If it is only the mental and moral qualifications that recommends the appli-

cant, the 'better half' of our race is eminently qualified for admission ; but the law forbids, and they submit without a murmur. Many who have lost an arm or a foot may be both morally and mentally qualified, but not physically, and why should they not also submit? It is their misfortune, not the fault of the law. The sightless and speechless may be endowed with the highest intellectual qualifications, but the law forbids their admission, and we have no more right to now change the law, than we have power to restore the sight or the hearing. Let us not remove the landmarks our fathers have set up. The weight of authority is largely against the admission of the maimed, and the Committee are of the opinion that the loss of any limb necessary to learn and teach the art is such a defect that renders an applicant disqualified to receive any of the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, and that the loss of a foot, whether the right or the left, is such a defect as to render the applicant disqualified.

"We offer for adoption the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That the loss of an arm or a foot renders an applicant disqualified to receive any of the degrees conferred in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons."

"Respectfully submitted,

"H. G. HAZELRIGG,

"WILLIAM HACKER,

"*Committee.*

"Which was adopted."

We insert the above entire for the benefit of the Companions of this jurisdiction, as, in our judgment, the question of the right of M. M. for advancement is important, and the duties we owe our Chapters are no less so.

The ball, however, is now fully started, and we imagine the reporters will keep it rolling until the question is settled to the entire satisfaction of all parties.

The Report on Correspondence is by Comp. Alexander Thomas, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and is very full, frank and instructive. Pennsylvania receives kindly notice. We have given so much space to Indiana for that year already that we must forbear any further.

M. E. Companion GEO. H. FISH, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. Companion JNO. M. BRAMWELL, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

INDIANA—1875.

October 20, 1875. M. E. Companion Geo. H. Fish, Grand High Priest, in his address, which is very good, relates what we would call an outrage, but which he, as will be seen, allows to pass in a very mild manner. We would have been much better pleased to have reported that he arrested their warrant and came before his Grand Chapter asking them to confirm his action, which being done would have nailed that practice in at least one instance, so that it could not be revived. We think that Companions who can be so thoughtless, so ungenerous and so criminal as to resort to such a device for the purpose of making the unthinking laugh, should be summarily dealt with, and put beyond the reach of such miserable burlesque for ever after:

“At one Chapter which I visited, I was absolutely struck dumb. Feeling fatigued, I declined the chair, preferring to be a ‘looker-on in Vienna.’ Upon the first introduction of the candidates, I was struck with the peculiarity of their proceeding, and resolved to wait and see what folly reasonable thinking men could be guilty of. Twice I started from my chair in indignation to stop the farce, but restrained myself and saw it through to the bitter end. How the beautiful lessons sought to be inculcated in this Degree, could ever make a favorable impression upon these “three *weary* sojourners,” is beyond my ken. I left them happy in the thought that they had excelled themselves before one of their Grand Officers. I trust that this public statement will cause them to think, and put into practice a modicum of their common sense and intelligence, of which they have plenty.”

The Grand High Priest gives some good advice in his address upon the dues question, and quotes Comp. Wiggins of California approvingly. We congratulate the Grand High Priest upon the fact that he takes so solid a hold of the subject, and we congratulate Comp. Wiggins that he has the honor of being quoted as a correspondent by one who is evidently so intelligent as Most Excellent Companion Fish.

The report on Correspondence is by Most Excellent Comp. Geo. H. Fish, and is simply extracts from the reports of thirty-four Grand Chapters, including the General Grand Chapter. The reason, because any views expressed might seem semi-official. We think it a mistake for any one in office to hold such views, as it is well understood that unless the Grand Chapter adopts

the reports of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence they are simply held to be the opinions of the writer, and are not charged against the Grand Chapter as official documents. Our rule has been to contrast our customs with others when we differed, defend our own or praise the other respectively, as we felt them to be right, and watch closely for good things to report, that our Companions might have the benefit of them, become familiar with, and in time adopt them, and we found no difficulty in steering clear of anything that would entangle us or our Grand Chapter, but then it is true we were not Grand High Priest.

M. E. Companion LUCIEN A. FOOTE, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. Companion JNO. M. BRAMWELL, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

IOWA.

The Twenty-first Annual Convocation was held in the city of Dubuque, October 20, 1874.

Most Excellent Comp. Robert F. Brown, Grand High Priest, presiding. In his address he states he granted dispensation to Leon Chapter to ballot out of time for three Brothers to receive the Capitular Degrees, it being asked because one of them was absent most of his time, and it being impossible to confer the Degrees except by that process. We think it would have been better for him to have done without them until he could have got more time to stay at home. As we cannot conceive that any possible good can come to him from such hurried work. We think the Chapter ran a risk in taking him in without the fullest time of probation and the opportunity for inquiry on the part of Committees whose duty it would have been to have made such inquiry. And above all the bad precedent which was thereby established for his successor or some other Grand Officer of doing likewise. We hope the day will come when it will be rare indeed for that prerogative of the Grand High Priest to be exercised, viz., the granting dispensations to ballot out of time.

The Most Excellent High Priest made a large number of decisions, which we quote as showing how differently from us they work in that jurisdiction.

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

“In reply to a query whether after a Brother had taken the Mark Master’s Degree his advancement can be prevented by a Companion objecting thereto, I answered that the law in the case is unequivocal and that the rule in our State is that a Companion can object to the conferring of any of the Degrees at any time, and that the candidate cannot proceed any further until said Companion withdraws his objection.

“In reply to the query whether in case of failure to elect, the High Priest holds over, I decided that the High Priest continued in office until his successor was elected and installed, and that it was not necessary for him to be re-installed.

“To the query: ‘A Master Mason in good standing who claims to have petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Missouri during the rebellion, was regularly elected, and received the Mark Master’s Degree, but before he could go any further said Chapter was broken up, its seal and records destroyed, and it has never been organized since. How is he to proceed to get the balance of the Degrees?’ I replied, if the Chapter was in operation it would be necessary to get their certificate of the above facts with their recommendation, and then the balance of the Degrees could be conferred. In this case, however, the Chapter being defunct, and there being no evidence of the above facts, he must be treated simply as a Master Mason. He must send in his petition and let it take the regular course. Of course, if he could prove himself a Mark Master, you would have to recognize him as such, and treat him accordingly.

“To the query whether a member of a Chapter can object to a candidate receiving the degrees, or any of them, after he had been duly elected, without giving any reason, I replied: Yes.

“To the query whether it was necessary to ballot for every degree, I replied: *First*, In my opinion, the ballot should always be spread for every degree; but in our country the usage generally adopted is to ballot only once, and if not objected to, that answers for all the degrees.

“To the query: ‘What time does a petitioner have to wait before he can send in a new petition, in cases where he has been rejected for Chapter degrees?’ I replied that our Grand Chapter Statutes and Regulations were silent upon that subject, and I could not find any decision or ruling in our proceedings; that the laws that govern Chapters are very meagre, and that in the absence of any guide I would adopt the ruling of our Grand Lodge, which makes six months intervene before a new petition can be presented. I therefore decided that a candidate six months after his rejection may present a new petition for the degrees.

“To a query as to whether it was necessary for a Companion to sign the by-laws of his Chapter, I replied that the law requires

every member to sign the by-laws, and that unless he does so he is not a member of the Chapter.

"The Companions of Tabernacle Lodge, No. 52, at Waterloo, desired to meet in another Masonic hall, in the same town but on the opposite side of the river, for the convenience of conferring the degrees upon some Brothers who resided there, to which I gave my consent.

"In reply to a query as to the status of a Companion suspended in a Lodge, I referred to the following resolution of the Grand Chapter:

"That suspension or expulsion of a member from a Symbolic Lodge (he being a Royal Arch Mason) shall *de facto* operate as a suspension or expulsion from all the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Mason.'—*Grand Chapter Constitutions*, page 24, II.

"The following question was submitted to me by Dubuque Chapter, No. 3:

"A Companion who was suspended from his [Dubuque] Chapter, about eleven years ago, for non-payment of dues, now wishes to petition the Chapter for reinstatement. He is not affiliated with any Lodge, nor has he declared his intention to do so, but claims that the Chapter is bound to reinstate him, and then if he does not affiliate with a Lodge at the end of one year the Chapter can suspend him.'

"I replied: My opinion is that he has a right to be restored, and that upon his application and the payment of his arrears, the Chapter must proceed in the usual way to reinstate him. His neglect of duty afterwards is another consideration and must be treated accordingly. The Grand Chapter cannot pass an *ex post facto* law.

"A Brother who received the first three degrees of the Chapter in Indiana, and afterwards removed to Iowa, desired to know how he could be exalted and become a member in this jurisdiction? I replied that the Chapter in Iowa could exalt him by the consent of the Chapter in Indiana, and then by signing the By-Laws of the Iowa Chapter, he became a member thereof.

"The High Priest of Corinthian Chapter, No. 14, asked the following questions:

"1st. 'A Brother, a member of a Lodge in Des Moines, applied for and was duly elected to receive the Degrees in the Chapter, but before taking them removed to Davenport, and the Chapter there claimed him. Which has jurisdiction?'

"2d 'Is it necessary that every Royal Arch Mason in this jurisdiction should affiliate with some Blue Lodge?'

"To which I replied:

"1st. That the Des Moines Chapter has jurisdiction, and that the Chapter at Davenport must not confer the degrees without their consent.

"2d. A general regulation of our Grand Chapter requires all

Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction to affiliate with some Blue Lodge, and it becomes your duty to see that said regulation is carried into effect. [*See pages 468 and 470 Proceedings, 1872.*]

“At a regular meeting of Iowa City Chapter, No. 2, the first three officers not being present, there was no meeting, but the Secretary wrote in the record book as follows:

“‘Regular meeting of Iowa City Chapter, No. 2. Present: [Then follows the names of several Companions.] As neither of the chief officers were present, the Chapter did not open.’

“At the next regular meeting the Secretary read the above as the minutes of a (?) meeting. The High Priest ruled that the Secretary was not authorized to make any record whatever, but as some Companions dissented from his decision, he wrote to me for mine. I replied that it is the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings of every meeting; but as there was no meeting of said Chapter, there was nothing to record, hence I ruled that what he did was out of order and unauthorized.

“To the question as to what action should be taken by a Chapter relative to a member who was suspended in his Lodge, I replied: ‘The suspension of a Brother in his Lodge, *de facto* suspends him from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry; and the High Priest (being convinced of the same) will cause it to be entered on record by your Secretary. Being deprived of all his Masonic rights, the Chapter will of course return him as suspended. [*See Constitution of Grand Chapter, resolution II, page 24; also report of Committee, page 32.*]

“To the query, ‘Is it necessary for a Brother who, as Master of a Lodge, has the degree of Past Master conferred on him in a Lodge of Past Masters, to take the degree of Past Master in the Royal Arch Chapter?’ I replied: ‘It is.’

“To the queries, 1st—‘Can a Brother, whose residence is in Iowa, take the Capitular Degrees in Missouri?’

“2d—‘Can a Chapter refuse to permit a Companion not a member, to visit them?’

“I replied:

“1st—‘That the Brother’s residence being in Iowa, we have jurisdiction over him, and the Chapter in Missouri has no right to confer the degrees without our consent.’

“2d—‘That the right of a Companion to visit a Chapter is merely an act of courtesy on the part of said Chapter, and that their High Priest has a perfect right to forbid him, if he chooses.’

“The question was asked me, ‘Whether a Brother, whose petition had been favorably acted on, but whose advancement was objected to by a member, which objection was recorded, could not again petition?’

“To which I replied, ‘That the Brother’s petition having been already acted on, it would be entirely inadmissible to receive

another petition, and the only way to proceed was for the Companion to withdraw his objection and place the same on record, and then to confer the degree. A Companion has a perfect right to object without stating his reasons. His objection cannot be gainsaid, but must be respected until it is withdrawn.'

"The question was asked me, 'Whether an installed officer of a Chapter can resign and dimit?'

"To which I replied, 'That any officer wishing to resign can do so, except the High Priest. I believe that no installed officer should resign, unless for some good reason; and there is no law to prevent any Companion from dimitting that desires to. Of course the Companions dimitting understand their status.'

The following is good, and we would suggest its careful consideration to windy Companions who will persist in airing their eloquence at the expense of their more modest victims:

ELOQUENCE LIMITED.

"Companion Gurney presented the following resolution, which was, on motion of Companion Guilbert, laid over until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock:

"*Resolved*, That no Companion be allowed to speak exceeding five minutes on any one question, and no Companion shall speak twice on the same subject, except by permission of the Grand Chapter.'

The Report on Correspondence is by Comp. T. S. Parvin, and is good. He being one of the oldest and soundest writers in the corps, perfectly frank, independent, and withal kindly. He makes one feel that he is better and stronger after reading it. We quote the following to show how he as a reporter appreciates his duty, and we fully agree with him.—

"We have expressed our opinion plainly, forcibly, though kindly and courteously upon all questions presented. We and not our Grand Chapter are solely responsible for what *we say*. We are not in harmony with the majority in the Grand Chapter upon many subjects, but are made happier in the review of the proceedings before us to find, with rare exceptions, that the educated and well read and experienced Masons and jurists abroad agree *with us* in the views expressed—and we are sure the truth is mighty and will prevail in time even in Iowa. We have sought to bring this report within reasonable limits, in the hope not only of practicing economy, but of inducing a few of our Companions at home to read it, confident that were these reports of a corps of learned writers generally read, we should have much more intelligent legislation than now prevails."

M. E. Companion R. F. BOWER, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest*.

M. E. Companion WM. B. LANGRIGE, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary*.

KANSAS.

The Tenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Kansas was held in the city of Leavenworth, October 20, 1874. M. E. Companion John M. Price, Grand High Priest, delivered an excellent address, full of interest to the Craft of that jurisdiction. He also reported the following decisions:

DECISIONS.

“During the past year there have been numerous questions relating to the jurisprudence of Capitular Masonry submitted to me. Of the many decisions made, I deem the following only of sufficient importance to report:

“1. In 1870 Companion Owen A. Bassett, then Grand High Priest, decided that, ‘While a dispensation is in force, the membership of the petitioner in his old Chapter is suspended, and upon the granting of a Charter his membership is, by the act of the Grand Chapter, transferred from the old to the new Chapter.’ This view of the question was approved and the decision affirmed by the Grand Chapter. Therefore, certain members of Ottawa Chapter, No. 7, having signed a petition for a Dispensation for Zion Chapter, they were *quasi* suspended, while under Dispensation, from Ottawa, No. 7, and dimitted therefrom by the act of the Grand Chapter when it granted a Charter to Zion Chapter. Hence, the petitioners were not liable for dues to Ottawa Chapter after the Dispensation was granted to Zion Chapter.

“2. It is a general rule of Masonic jurisprudence that a suspension or expulsion by the Lodge also suspends or expels, as the case may be, from the higher branches of the Order. Therefore, if a Brother has been regularly tried by his Lodge and been suspended or expelled, the same penalty attached to him as a Royal Arch Mason, without a trial in his Chapter. In such case it is the right and the duty of the High Priest to obtain from the Lodge a certificate of such conviction and sentence, and cause it to be entered on the records of the Chapter. To prevent misapprehension, I also held, that if the Lodge only suspended the accused, and the Chapter believed he should have been expelled, it has the right to prefer charges and expel him from the Chapter. This sentence of expulsion, however, does not affect the Brother’s standing in the Lodge.

“3. While a candidate must be an affiliated member of some Lodge before he can receive the Degrees of Capitular Masonry, it is not required that such membership should be in a Lodge in

this State. If he should dimit from his Lodge after his exaltation, and remain a non-affiliate, he does not thereby lose his membership or good standing in his Chapter.

"4. A Brother holding membership in a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction, and affiliating with a Chapter in this State, and is afterwards suspended by his Lodge for non-payment of dues, he also becomes suspended from his Chapter.

"5. A Chapter has no right to expel a Companion for non-payment of dues.

"6. A member who has been suspended for the non-payment of dues is not entitled to hold office or vote in his Chapter, nor to visit the same.

"7. The expulsion or suspension of a Royal Arch Mason, for any cause, forbids all Masonic intercourse with him during the time such sentence is in force.

"8. When a Companion in good standing applies to his Chapter for a dimit, it is the duty of the Chapter to grant the dimit, without requiring the Companion to give his reasons therefor."

The following resolution was adopted :

"*Resolved*, That a petition for the Capitular Degrees, or for membership, must be presented at a Regular Convocation, and must not be balloted on the same evening it is presented ; and no candidate shall be advanced until his proficiency in the preceding Degrees has been established by examination in open Chapter, or vouched for by one of the three principal officers : provided this shall not be construed as to prevent the conferring of two Degrees the same evening."

The first part of the resolution we commend, believing it to be the best way to compel Royal Arch Masons to understand what they are doing, and what responsibilities they are assuming. But we fear the latter part will strip it of all its virtue. If the proviso means that two degrees on the same candidate may be conferred on the same evening, then the Grand Secretary may write "bosh" over the resolution, and thus erect one more monument to too much law. We would personally be pleased if some Grand Chapter would initiate the plan as per the first part of the above resolution, and rigidly enforce it, so that we might get our jurisdiction educated into the same plan, and thus *make* Royal Arch Masons, and limit the *manufacturing* of them.

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion E. G. Carr. On his review of Pennsylvania he says :

"In this connection we are induced to ask Companion Meyer to point us to some of the beneficial results of his \$1,398 worth

of visitations. Was it to find out these irregularities? or was it to find others and leave these for his successor to correct?"

We reply that first in taking his Grand Officers with him he found the points of dereliction, which he reported, which we think priceless, as we aim in this jurisdiction to have as near right as may be. Next he exemplified the work and taught the officers of the different Chapters how to do it correctly; and by visiting them created an interest among the members, and they commenced with renewed energy to work up their Chapters, and in fine we did \$13,000 worth of good with an expenditure of \$1300.

We also copy the following:

"The Report on Correspondence was submitted by Companion W. J. Kelly. Twenty Grand Chapters receive a 'fair and impartial' notice. Kansas was not present, although we have reason to believe our Proceedings were in."

We would like to ask, with all respect, what reason you have to believe your Proceedings were in? As we assert, we review every proceeding that comes to our hands without fail. And, therefore, feel as if we would like to know how Proceedings were in without our knowledge.

M. E. Companion JNO. M. PRICE, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest*.

M. E. Companion E. T. CARR (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary*.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, of Louisiana, was held in the City of New Orleans, Tuesday, February 9th, 1875.

Most Excellent Companion James E. Horner, Grand High Priest, delivered an address of much ability and interest and "tackled" the subject of striking members' names from the roll for non-payment of dues. We use the term tackled after due reflection, for while he made a desperate lunge at the subject, he failed to master it. To explain, we in this jurisdiction do not know the striking from the roll (in practice), our term is suspension, by vote of the Lodge, after at least one month's notice of delinquency under the seal of the Lodge or Chapter. If the delinquent fails to respond and the vote taken he is suspended.

Now the Grand Lodge of Louisiana says about the same thing in striking from the roll (barring the notice, which we do not know anything about), and the Grand Chapter certainly says the same thing, if we understand the English language; but Most Excellent Grand High Priest Horner says:

“A vote of the Lodge, striking a brother's name from the roll, under the resolution of the Grand Lodge referred to, lacks every element of a Masonic trial; it is only the case of a brother suspended or expelled by actual sentence, that the Chapter can consider; it is only a brother who is under sentence of expulsion or suspension with whom we can hold no Masonic communication; in this we are not under the necessity of waiting for a formal certificate of the fact; we being ourselves Master Masons may and must know it, to avoid a violation of an obligation; but a sentence necessarily presupposes a previous trial and conviction, on charges of unmasonic conduct regularly preferred. It is not good law, it is not a proper use of language, to say that a vote of a lodge, under the resolution of the Grand Lodge, to strike a brother's name from the roll, is a trial. It is hardly worthy the designation of an abuse of language, and hence such striking from the roll is not equivalent to suspension,—is not suspension.

“Indeed, had the resolution read, that the Lodge under the circumstances named in the resolution, could by vote suspend a brother—of course without the form of a trial, understood, and that is the equivalent of what the resolution does state, it would not be a legal suspension; at least it would be without the sanction of any Masonic or other law, save that the inquisition of depotism; would be in violation of Masonic law higher in dignity than the Constitution, resolutions or edicts of the Grand Lodge, of the Ancient Landmarks, and contrary to the spirit of the laws of every country where Freemasonry flourishes, or is suffered to prevail.

“I found that a contrary decision would also work great hardship with a certain class of our most respected Companions, and as to them especially would make the resolution of the Grand Lodge, one violative of their sacred and vested rights; I mean the life members of our Chapters, who have paid up their dues for a certain number of years, or who have advanced a large sum on account of dues, and for these reasons have been exempt from any further taxation; and have thus become entitled to all the privileges of membership in their Chapters during their natural lives.

“But it has been objected to my decision, that Section 31, of our own Grand Constitution, provides that,

‘Should a Companion R. A. Mason, be suspended or expelled,

or stricken from the roll of membership by his Lodge, as soon as authentic knowledge of the fact be received by the Chapter, his name shall be stricken from the roll of his Chapter.'

"I do not think that this Article overrides the higher law already alluded to, or in any manner controls it; but it is unnecessary to go further into the question, because at the time of the adoption of our Grand Constitution, the resolution of the Grand Lodge in question did not exist, and the name of a Master Mason then, could not be stricken from the roll of his Lodge, until he had been regularly and formally tried and convicted. This consideration, therefore, led to the following decision:

"3°. All references in the laws or constitution of the Grand Chapter, to the laws or regulations of the Grand Lodge, allude to such latter laws and regulations as were in existence at the time of the adoption of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter; and this Grand Chapter and its members as Royal Arch Masons, cannot be bound by edicts and resolutions of the Grand Lodge, made subsequent to the adoption of our Constitution, unless the same be regularly adopted by the Grand Chapter."

The above we call close cutting, and think it very little use having constitutions and laws if that kind of reasoning will stand. We would suggest as the short, quick, and *safe* way to settle the matter, that you change the law, then all can understand it; as it is, we are afraid many will be convinced because the Grand High Priest so decided, but their judgment will not be satisfied with the reasoning.

The following from M. E. Girard's minority report from the Committee of Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, was adopted by a large majority :

"*Resolved*, 1°. That the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest, No. 2, that the suspension of a member of a R. A. Chapter by his Lodge for non-payment of dues, by virtue of the law of the Grand Lodge, relative to suspension for non-payment of dues, passed February 11, 1874, does not suspend him from his Chapter, be and is hereby overruled.

"2°. That the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest, numbered 3, that the reference in section 49 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, to the laws of the Grand Lodge, allude only to such as were in existence at the time of its adoption, is hereby overruled, as being in direct opposition to the rulings of the Grand Chapter in 1874, to which last this Grand Chapter adheres."

And so Companion Horner's decision was reversed.

There was no report on Correspondence. Companion Horner

not finding time to write one, and we think he has a good excuse for not doing so.

Companion SAML. J. POWELL (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JAMES C. BATCHELDER (re-elected), *Grand Sec'y*.

MAINE.

The Fiftieth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Portland, May 4, 1874.

M. E. Comp. Horace H. Burback, Grand H. P., delivered an address abounding in beautiful thoughts and solid advice. He reported but one decision made by him during the year, and that was in accordance with *their* Constitution.

The report of the Grand Secretary recommended the abrogation of a rule which we think good, and its repeal a mistake. He says :

“ I suggest for consideration the expediency of changing the provision of the Constitution requiring the Grand Secretary to notify all the Chapters of rejections—requiring him instead to register them alphabetically. There are probably few cases where applicants are not well known ; and when there is any doubt the Committee of Inquiry can easily get the needed information, by writing the Grand Secretary, if rejections are on record in his office.”

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion Josiah H. Drummond, late Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter, and a very solid, conscientious, and intelligent writer. Looking at the last of his work, we find he agrees with Companion Parvin, of Iowa, in the idea of a reporter's duty, which is to criticise the writings of others (not quote them). We entirely disagree with Companion Parvin, and are sorry Companion Drummond recommends that system, because, we find many brilliant thoughts, graphically and beautifully worked out, by Companions Parvin, Drummond, and in fact the whole corps, which we have no right to deprive our Companions of ; nay, in our judgment, it is a duty we owe them to give the benefit of others' genius, and in their own words—while the expense of printing the Proceedings are nothing, absolutely nothing, in comparison to the good done by reporting good things. Besides, if you once adopt that course, our reports would soon degenerate into adverse criticism only, and we would generally be made to suffer for our

experiment. Some few reporters we know harp somewhat upon the fact that they do not use the scissors ; well let them write out the whole thing if they want ; no one will object, and the writing paper manufacturers will rejoice. But do not find fault with our use of them, for scissor-grinders must live, and we may not wish to spend more than six months out of every twelve, on our reports ; besides, if we wish to consult perfect copies of reports we have them in our library, and as we generally receive two or three copies of Proceedings and send the same number to those Grand Chapters we are in correspondence with, no one is hurt, and we may be made happy. We, like our illustrious friend, do not copy any personal favorable allusions of which we have many to thank our Brother chips for, but we appreciate them heartily nevertheless, and can easily forgive those who take a different view. Companion Drummond has reviewed the proceedings of forty Grand Chapters and nine of them for two years, Pennsylvania for 1874 being among the number. In his review of Iowa, he speaks as follows of the Past Master degree :

“He extols the wisdom and good sense of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in having no ‘Past Master folly, called a degree:’ but we cannot see where the special ‘wisdom and good sense’ comes in, for she requires candidates to obtain that ‘folly’ by the farce of nominally passing the Chair *by dispensation* in the Blue Lodge. The Royal Arch degree was originally conferred only on *actual* Past Masters ; this made its sphere too confined ; so two methods of evading the law, while nominally complying with it, were invented ; Pennsylvania has one method ; other Grand Chapters have the other ; and the difference between the methods is no very good ground for pride, either way.”

In the above paragraph he characterizes our passing to the chair, the farce, &c. We think, however, that Companion D. has furnished the best argument that has yet been advanced for the correctness of the Pennsylvania system, viz : “The Royal Arch degree was originally conferred only on actual Past Masters, &c.” Now if the exigencies of the Royal Craft made it necessary to have Past Masters for *material* faster than the actual would give them, why certainly the proper place to go to for that *material* would be the Blue Lodge, *the only body that has any right to confer that degree*. To our mind it would be as incongruous

to confer the Fellow Craft degree in the Chapter as the Past Master degree.

“If it were not an overthrowing of the whole system as it came to us from the fathers, we would favor leaving out the Past Master degree; but as it is we cannot, and the only solution is to treat the Lodge and Chapter Past Master as two different men, having the same name. Companion Parvin adheres usually so tenaciously to the ‘old ways’ that we confess we are surprised to find him willing to make this great innovation—one involving a complete change of the Chapter polity and ritual. As we received it, so must we continue to impart it.”

The following we insert without comment, only saying we wrote our friend Past Grand High Priest Charles E. Meyer to forward us a copy of the Proceedings referred to (Maine, 1869), but whether he is absent from the city, or has forgotten, we cannot say. But we have not yet received them, and as we are behind with our work we cannot stop to look further. *We are willing, however, to take Companion Drummond for much more than he asks in the following:*

“We presume Companion Kelley would be satisfied with our assurance that he is in error. But we prefer to show that we had reason for our statement. We think he will himself be surprised when he goes back to the early part of 1869, and recalls what had then been published by his Grand Chapter. Nothing in the shape of ‘Proceedings’ had ever been published until 1861, when a pamphlet of about thirty pages was printed, but almost all taken up by an excellent address, not two pages of which was devoted to Pennsylvania matters. The next publication was in 1863—eleven pages—and we have the only copy we have ever heard of outside of that State. In 1865, the Proceedings of 1864 (24 pp.) were published. In 1868, the Proceedings of 1865 to 1867 were published in one pamphlet—valuable to be sure, but giving no idea of the polity of that Grand Chapter. None of these pamphlets contained the Constitutions and Regulations, which up to that time had never been forwarded to other Grand Chapters. Those two pages, which Companion L. mentions, cost us a good deal of time and research, and if Companion Kelley will examine pages 159 to 162, inclusive, of our Grand Chapter Proceedings for 1869, we believe he will admit the truth of our remark, which gave rise to the discussion.”

M. E. Companion HARRY S. PAIN (re-elected), *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. Companion IRA BERRY (re-elected), *Grand Secretary.*

MARYLAND.

The Annual Convocation was held in Baltimore, November 9th, 1874.

Most Excellent Companion James W. Bowers, Grand High Priest.

The following from his address is, we are sorry to say, too true in many instances :

“I have had quite a number of queries propounded to me during the year, all of which were, I am pleased to say, answered to the satisfaction of the Companions interested, and as they involve no new points of law or usage, but simply presented peculiar phases of laws, which had already been approved by this Grand Body, I do not append them. This fact is also a source of congratulation to us as Royal Arch Masons, for in reading the addresses of Grand High Priests, and the reports of judiciary committees of other Grand Chapters, I have found so large a number of legal decisions that it appeared as though the Companions were much more interested in the law, than in the moral teachings of our beautiful ritual, which inculcates, Charity, Brotherly Love, Friendship, Union, Fervency, and Zeal, and Purity of life and conduct.”

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion Herman S. Emmons, an old stager in the business, an intelligent Companion and a kind-hearted man; he makes more extended comments in this than in his usual reports, and we should like to have time to cull from him, but as his views are all pacific we must push on to more decided points.

M. E. Companion JAMES W. BOWERS (re-elected), *Grand High Priest*.

M. E. Companion WM. E. WENTZ (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The Grand Chapter held several quarterly and special Convocations and an Annual Convocation, December 30th, 1874. Most Excellent Companion Alfred F. Chapman, Grand High Priest. We quote from his address the following, which we are sure is praiseworthy :

“It has been my object during my official service, to encour-

age and stimulate such Chapters as might be, from any cause, weakening; hence I have endeavored, during my term, to visit all and so to arrange my visits, that while they would be official, they should also be timely and fraternal. I have not deemed it enough for me to be content with the routine visits of the District Deputies; but as much as possible and at other than the time ordered for these, to see for myself the needs of the family of Chapters which makes our Grand Chapter, by their zealous co-operation and support, strong and secure in the affections of its members."

We also commend the following:

"And here I would repeat what I have often said, and what my judgment confirms in regard to the ritual, namely, that by adhering with fidelity to the ritual exemplified by the Grand Chapter, and rendering it with a proper spirit and understanding, a Chapter will become conspicuous for the excellence of its work, and so invite attention that attendance will increase, interest in it will grow stronger, and its members will perform with pleasure the labor that were otherwise a task."

We insert the following and feel sure it will repay attentive perusal:

"And now, Companions, may we not refer to our term of service without egotism or the fear of reproach.

"By Constitutional limit, our three years occupancy of this office must expire to-night—within that time we have tried to protect the ancient landmarks of our order against innovation and transmit them unimpaired to those who are to come.

"We have endeavored to restore our history to its proper channel, without adding reproach; and mindful of the fact that we must put off this mortal, we have also remembered the dead, and have adopted a farewell service for them, that if in life they so shall choose, the living may commit them tenderly and reverently to the tomb.

"We have aimed to make of Royal Arch Masonry, a system, at once compact, inviting and enduring, no more dependent than dependent upon; but giving and receiving strength, by its good word and deed, and by the contribution of mutual respect.

"In laying aside the duties of this office, in which you have so generously given me support, my Companions in a larger sphere have bidden me continue to work; and as an officer in the General Grand Chapter of the United States, I shall still try to be of service to you and to it—there, as in this Grand Chapter, I shall lose no opportunity that I know how to embrace, to increase the strength and enhance the dignity and honor of the Capitular Rite.

“If this has been an ambition, I confess in me its influence; and that I have as constantly sought for such in every officer and Masonic associate of mine, as I have also to discountenance all attempts to envy or supplant a properly qualified one. Envy is the child of ignorance; it is therefore a flippant or a thoughtless tongue that checks by splenetic speech the well intended efforts of those who strive to do their work well.

“To have the best, the best must emulate each other. Subordinate Chapters should remember that the younger Companions are the more likely to undertake their work with zeal, and knowing this, the older ones should give good council and support.

“Drones in the Masonic hive are useless, the times are on the alert; and never more than now, in the day of prosperity, should we guard against the reverse, nor harder strive to do the best and have the best for the perfection of our Temple and our Art.

“Be ye therefore, Companions, of one mind—avoid private piques; give such no ear nor voice in Masonry. In it, shun cliques, or as the street has it—rings—for they are breeders of error and decay. It is the privilege of every Mason to think, to see, and if need be to act and speak. The Masonic Institution wants men, who standing in awe only of the infinite Father, are individual in character, strong in purpose, correct in deed, true of heart; giving and doing the best they can for the general weal, themselves seeking *Light*, with their faces turned thitherward.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Jno. W. Dadmun, a jewel of a reporter, whose writings we never tire in perusing, and who can say that he “is not conscious of having written an unkind word since he accepted the reportorial pen.” Yet he is aggressive when occasion requires; one whom we think has elevated his Grand Chapter as much as any person in it, not even excepting their late Grand High Priest. We sincerely congratulate Companion Dadmun upon his being elected Grand High Priest, for while we do not think it *much* of a promotion, we certainly think it will give him opportunity for more extended good. The following in his review of Kansas, we quote and approve :

“He says : ‘We cannot see the propriety of changing the name of the Almighty to suit the particular branch of the Order in which we may be at work.’ In this we most fully concur. Inasmuch as we profess to have a great reverence for the ‘Great and Sacred name of God,’ would it not be more reverential for us to confine ourselves to the titles by which he is known in the ‘Great Light in Freemasonry?’ We have witnessed some *agonizing* and ludicrous efforts on the part of some Brethren to introduce

great titles in devotional exercises, such as 'Supreme Grand High Priest,' 'Almighty Grand Master,' etc. Suppose we carry this out, and address the Deity as Grand Captain General, Almighty Eminent Commander, or Supreme Inspector General, etc. 'God cannot be tempted' with such high sounding words. 'Our Father who art in Heaven,' is infinitely sweeter and better."

We copy the following from his review of Maine, upon the question of Suspension, Restoration, etc. :

" 'A man is convicted of adultery and sent to the penitentiary, whereupon his wife obtains a divorce, basing her complaint upon the verdict of the jury.

" 'It is subsequently discovered that the evidence was false, and the man is consequently pardoned and restored to his civil rights.

" 'Does his restoration to society, *ipso facto*, confer upon him his marital rights? ' "

" We answer No, because the law has fixed it otherwise. Now, the point we make is this; ought we not to have a law that will restore a Companion to membership in the Chapter when he is restored in the Lodge, provided he has done nothing since his expulsion to forfeit the privilege? If we declare him expelled simply because he has been expelled from his Lodge, ought we not by rule restore him in the Chapter? In regard to Masonic usage in this matter we do not disagree with Companions Young and Drummond. We wish to deal kindly as well as justly with an unfortunate Companion."

We hold more to the view of Companion Wiggan on the question of dues, and think that if we must be so tender with one who deserves punishment, we had better not punish at all.

The following is his conclusion, which we copy entire :

" Massachusetts has adopted the Grand Representative System, not because she is satisfied with it in its present form, but because she is willing to do everything in her power to strengthen the bond of union already existing between her and her Sister Grand Chapters.

" In reading the Proceedings this year, we have been impressed with the fact that there is a growing desire on the part of all to excel in every Masonic virtue. A closer and more enduring Masonic friendship is springing up all over the world. Old men and young men are searching diligently for the old land-marks with a laudable desire to be perfect in the true work. State lines are

not known except for mere jurisdictional purposes. Peace and harmony prevail everywhere; and we are nearer to each other, and more closely united, than we ever were before. Love reigneth, let the Masonic world rejoice!

“The reportorial quill must now pass to other hands, for it would be highly improper for us to act as Grand High Priest and reporter at the same time. We will not say farewell, for if Most Excellent Companion Chapman should, at some future time, get weary of the reporter’s work, we promise to come to his relief (D. V). We sincerely thank our Companions of the Reportorial Corps for the uniform kindness we have received at their hands.”

M. E. Companion JNO. W. DADMUN (elected), *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. Companion ZEPH N. THOMAS (elected), *Grand Secretary.*

MINNESOTA.

The Fourteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, was held in the City of St. Paul, on Tuesday, October 12, 1875.

Most Excellent Companion Silas R. Merrell, Grand High Priest presiding, delivered a good address. The following bit of sound advice we commend to many other jurisdictions, our own among the number:

“Companions, allow me to call your attention to the growing tendency of Masonic bodies toward too much and hasty legislation. Let us consider well each proposition that comes before us, that there may be no occasion to consume much of the time of any session in undoing the work of another.”

The Grand High Priest reported a number of decisions, which as is usual in that jurisdiction were submitted to the Grand Chapter, and by them submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and as they embrace the *kernel* of the subject we reproduce that part of the report, having reference thereto:

“1st. Relative to the decisions referred.

“As an answer to the question proposed to the Grand High Priest, reported as he quotes, “the decision of the G. G. H. P., agreed to by the G. G. Chapter in 1874,” which we submit *is not an answer to the question.*

“Evidently the Grand High Priest regards *striking from the*

roll and *suspension* as synonomous and convertible terms. Your committee are of the opinion that very much of the fog enveloping the penalty for non-payment of dues is attributable to this rather common *error*.

“*Striking from the roll* deprives the party of certain privileges attending membership in a particular Chapter, but does not deprive him of his privileges as a Royal Arch Mason.

“*Suspension*, on the contrary, throws him—during its continuance—entirely outside the pale of Masonry; for the time being Masonic death. In this jurisdiction, membership in a Chapter is not dependent upon membership in a Blue Lodge, and hence, in the opinion of your committee, the standing of a Royal Arch Mason is *not* affected by reason of his having been stricken from the roll of his Lodge.

“2d. The answer of the Grand High Priest to a supposable case, meets the approbation of your committee.

“3d. Your committee concur in the conclusion of the Grand High Priest as being in accord with the laws in this jurisdiction; but the decision is *not an answer to the question reported by him*.

“‘Erased from the roll,’ is not ‘suspension.’ The quotations from the ‘Uniform Code of By-Laws’ are not applicable to the question submitted. Your committee are of the opinion that *it is not* ‘lawful for a Chapter to *suspend* a man for non-payment of dues without due trial,’ or for any other cause.

“4th. Your committee are obliged to confess that they cannot see the point in the fourth question upon which a decision is reported, but as they are anxious to sustain the Grand High Priest, they concur in his ‘personal opinion.’

“Your committee are aware that in the minds of many of our Companions, ‘striking from the roll,’ or ‘erasing of names,’ is regarded as equivalent to suspension, and fearing that those views might be strengthened by the reasoning of that part of the address referred to your committee, they desire to place the matter in what they deem the right light before the Companions of this jurisdiction.

The Report on Correspondence is by that old veteran, A. T. C. Peirson, who gives a very thorough Report of 108 pages, in which he reviews the Proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Chapters, some of them for two and three years.

The following from his review of Indiana has good sound sense in it:

“We differ from each—the Grand High Priest and the committee. We regard ‘objection’ after ballot as a *privilege*, not an absolute right. At regular meetings every member is expected to be present, and whatever is done, absentees are bound to con-

cur in, as it was their business to have been present. But in cases of balloting, a member unavoidably absent, upon making the fact known, may be accorded the *privilege* of objection without assigning reasons, if opposed to the candidate. But if present when a candidate is elected, he cannot subsequently interpose an objection without particularizing, and it must be information subsequently obtained.

“No member has the right to trifle with co-members in any Masonic body, and a knowledge of matters that should prevent initiation or advancement should be made known or acted upon in the proper time; that is, when the petition is being considered. A party that would vote favorably on and vote for a candidate, and then without further information interpose an objection, *should be disciplined*, in addition to having no attention paid to his ‘I object.’ ”

The following speaks for itself:

“In 1859 the General Grand Chapter by resolution authorized a committee to adopt a system of work. The Committee met in 1860, and after a long session adopted a work. If our memory does not fail us, there were representatives from thirteen jurisdictions present at the meetings of the Committee, among them were representatives from New York. The latter State had, but two or three years previously, at great expense, procured and introduced in that State the ‘Lovell work.’ Great efforts had been made by the friends of the ‘Lovell work’ to induce the General Grand Chapter to adopt it; it had been the prominent topic at the sessions of 1850, 1853, and 1856.

“There was one point in the ‘Lovell work’ that both its friends and opponents deemed essential, which they could not harmonize, as neither would yield.

“New York having adopted the ‘Lovell work,’ refused to adopt the work of the authorized committee of the General Grand Chapter.

“If the General Grand Chapter has taken any action on the subject of work since 1859, it is news to us. No such action has been promulgated through its authorized Proceedings.

“If New York has the ‘standard work recognized by the General Grand Chapter,’ one of two propositions is patent:

“Either New York has abandoned the ‘Lovell work’ and adopted that promulgated by the General Grand Chapter through its authorized committee in 1860,—and if so, when was it done?—or,

“The General Grand Chapter has since 1860 *secretly* adopted a different work. If so, when? and how does it happen that New York alone is aware of the fact?

“Please give us light.

"We may say, right here, that we are not tenacious of verbal uniformity, but are of a uniformity in essentials. So long as a Royal Arch Mason can readily make himself known as such, and can *work* his way into all Chapters where *our* degree is worked, the rituals are, in our opinion, sufficiently uniform.

"In this age, when so many young Masons are coming to the front, it appears to be absolutely necessary for presiding officers, Committees on Jurisprudence and Foreign Correspondence, to reiterate decisions and reproduce opinions on matters that older Masons in the Craft regard as almost worn threadbare; and yet it must be done, as comparatively few read the publications of to-day, while still less read those of the past. The necessity of 'precept upon precept' is as patent in this age as it was when first enunciated in the Good Book."

Pennsylvania for 1873 and 1874, received extended and fraternal notice.

M. E. Companion S. I. PRENTISS (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

M. E. Companion A. T. C. PEIRSON (elected), *Grand Secretary*.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Convocation was held in the City of Meridian, Thursday, February 4, 1875. Most Excellent Companion John Y. Murray, Deputy Grand High Priest, presiding.

The following decisions were rendered :

DECISIONS.

"July 6th. 1st. That a Chapter cannot ballot on petitions except at regular meetings, and then only when the case has been referred to a committee of investigation at one stated meeting, and reported upon at a subsequent stated meeting.

"I decided also that the Grand High Priest cannot rightfully authorize another officer of the Grand Chapter to suspend the By-Laws and Regulations for Subordinate Chapters for any purpose, or under any circumstances whatever, the right of Dispensation resting solely with the Grand High Priest when in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, whose officer he is, and which is to be exercised by him only in special cases. In no case would he be warranted in granting to another a *carte blanche* to exercise the prerogatives belonging alone to himself.

"July 8th. 2d. That a Chapter in New Orleans, La., could

not entertain the petition of a Master Mason residing in the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Chapter in the State of Mississippi, without first obtaining consent of such Subordinate Chapter. I am willing to extend every Masonic courtesy to a sister Grand Jurisdiction, but in this case would have been a palpable infringement upon our Jurisdiction.

"Aug. 10th. 3d. That our laws make no distinction in favor of officers and men belonging to the United States Army, relative to qualifications for the Capitular Degrees. In this case I was applied to by Companion L. C. Abbott, a member of Wilson Chapter, No. 5, and Worshipful Master of Holly Springs Lodge, No. 35, who stated that sundry Master Masons stationed temporarily at Holly Springs, all of whom were bright in the Symbolic degrees, and otherwise well qualified, wished to take the Chapter degrees in Wilson Chapter; and subsequently I received a communication from Companion H. W. Walter, corroborating Companion Abbott's statement. Both of these worthy Companions also stated that in view of the pecuniary embarrassment which was seriously threatening to interfere with their Chapter, they would like to have a Dispensation in this case. In my reply, I stated that upon an application in proper form, from Wilson Chapter, I would authorize it to suspend the regulations so far as related to citizenship, but that I should direct the Chapter to observe the law in regard to the times for receiving and balloting upon the petitions. I never heard any more concerning this matter."

The following, from the report of a special committee appointed to consider the subject, is in our judgment sound, and we trust for the sake of consistency that all Grand Chapters will see it in the same light, and place the Past Master's degree where it properly belongs, viz: in the Blue Lodges:

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi:

"Your Committee, to whom was referred the following resolution, viz: 'That Chapter Past Masters, present when the Past Master's degree is conferred on the Master of a Lodge as a qualification for office, shall not assist in conferring more of that degree than is necessary for that purpose,' beg leave to report:

"That they cannot conceive by what right a Chapter Past Master can confer the degree of Past Master, or any part of it, on a Master elect.

"By our Permanent Regulations, no Chapter can confer it on any one who has not received the Mark Degree, and been elected to all the degrees of a Chapter.

"The truth is, the Past Master's degree was unknown to

Capitular Masonry by the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and was improperly taken from Symbolic Masonry, to which it belongs as an Honorary Degree. It is wholly unknown to the Grand Chapter of England. It is not worked by the Grand Chapter of Ireland. It was once worked by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, but it has by it been returned to the Grand Lodge as a Chair Degree, and the Chapters of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Colonies and Shanghai, working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, are only permitted to confer the degrees as a Side-Degree, so long as the work remains as it now is in America.

“The Past Master’s Degree is a new one, and is worked only in America, and our Chapters must continue to work it until some general change is made. Your Committee believe that it should then be surrendered to the Grand Lodges, as a Chair or Honorary Degree, to be communicated alone to Masters elect. The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, which has not accepted, and is not bound to work the Ritual prescribed by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has suggested, in an able Report, that the Degree shall not be conferred, but communicated.

“Your Committee can only express the hope that some Grand Convocation of the Representatives of all Grand Chapters may meet at no distant day, and may, in a spirit of mutual concession, adopt some Ritual for Chapter Degrees that will enable Capitular Masonry to work the same work and speak the same Masonic language in every nation. Your Committee can see no impropriety in a Chapter Past Master being present at the conferring of the Past Master’s Degree on a Master elect as a qualification degree, but no further.

“Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution as a substitute for the one submitted to your Committee, viz:

“*Resolved*, That no Chapter Past Master, as such, has any power to confer the Past Master’s Degree, or any part of it, on the Master of a Lodge as a qualifying Degree.

“H. W. WALTER.”

The following from the Committee on Law was adopted, and it is sound:

“‘*Resolved*, That the several Chapters in this jurisdiction are hereby authorized and empowered, at their own discretion, to suspend the by-laws of their Chapters and receive and act upon petitions instanter, either at stated or special meetings, for the purpose of forming a class for the exemplification of the adopted work, and for no other purpose, and only during the presence of the Grand Lecturer among them.’

“The wisdom of the Ancient Regulations, which this resolution proposes to dispense with, has been well established by immemorial usage, and our matured convictions bring us to the conclusion that the proposed change is inexpedient and unnecessary. Our Grand High Priest decided, as we think, both wisely and well, that he could not delegate his inherent authority to another—that is to say, while *he* could rightfully issue dispensations, he could not authorize another to do it at his discretion.

“We think dispensations are too frequently sought and granted for *mere convenience*, and in cases where no real emergency exists, and as often to the detriment of the Royal Craft-hood.

“If Grand High Priests have in any proper sense lawfully and of right inherited the prerogatives universally conceded as belonging to Grand Masters—we should pluck off our shoes and tread softly and slowly when we would venture upon an assault upon well established immemorial usages. The Committee return the resolution without approval.”

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion H. W. Walter, but as it is all embraced in less than twelve pages, it will readily be seen it does not aim to be *much of a report*.

M. E. Companion JOHN Y. MURRAY (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion J. S. BOWER (elected), *Grand Secretary*.

MISSOURI.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Missouri was held in the City of St. Louis, Thursday morning, October 8th, 1874. Most Excellent Companion Xenophon Ryland, Grand High Priest.

The following decisions were reported by the Grand High Priest, all of them interesting, but some of which we differ from :

“GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF MISSOURI.

“April 17th, 1874, Gentryville Chapter, No. 44, having lost its Charter, I ordered a duplicate to be issued.

DECISIONS.

“I. During the year it became necessary for me to decide whether or not it was necessary for a Companion to have served

as King or Scribe, before he could be eligible to the office of High Priest. Our law is silent on this subject. Yet, from my best information, no such pre-requisite has ever been required in this jurisdiction. I did not see any necessity for it, and believing that a contrary ruling to the prevalent custom would have created trouble and confusion in the Chapters, many of them having already elected and installed their officers, I decided the question in the negative.

WHAT IS A VALID OBJECTION ?

II. A was duly elected to receive all the degrees of the Chapter, and was advanced to the degree of Mark Master. A member of the Chapter, without any reasons therefor, made a verbal objection to the High Priest against A's further advancement. This was not done in open Chapter, nor is the objection, with name of objector, a matter of record. The objection thus made was entertained by the High Priest, and the advancement of A prevented.

"An appeal being made from this action, I decided, that an objection to advancement must be made in open Chapter by the objector, if present, or by some Companion authorized to act for him, in his name, if absent. The fact of objection, with the name of the objector, must be duly recorded in the minutes, to be valid. The objection may be made verbally or in writing, but the objector can not be compelled to give his reasons therefor. Harmony is the strength and beauty of our Institution, and to require anything further to be done in such cases will be but sowing seed of discord among Companions. That this right may be abused, is not the fault of our principles, but the neglect of them. In this case, I directed the High Priest to notify the objector of this decision, and that unless he, after due notice, made his objection a matter of record in accordance therewith, his objection should be treated as a nullity and the candidate allowed to proceed. If properly made, the objection to remain in force so long as the objector refuses to withdraw and remains a member of the Chapter.

"III. Nine Regular Royal Arch Masons constitute a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. A Chapter cannot be regularly opened or closed unless there be present at least nine Royal Arch Masons. The Chapter cannot remain open for the transaction of any business unless there be present nine Royal Arch Masons, five of whom must be members of the Chapter to constitute a quorum for business.

IV. R. W. Crawford was a member of Springfield Chapter, No. 15, at the time its Charter was surrendered during the war. Not having obtained a Dimit as provided by law, when the Charter was restored he was still a member of said Chapter. But in

this case, the members of said Chapter were required to enroll themselves as such before they were regarded as members. Companion Crawford requested to be enrolled as a member, but never after paid any dues. He was tried by the Chapter on the charge of disobeying summons, was acquitted of the charge, and on appeal to this Grand Body in 1873 the action of the Chapter was declared null and void. No further trial was had in the case, for want of notice to the Companion.

"Companion Crawford denied that he ever authorized his name to be enrolled as a member of the Chapter after the restoration of the Charter, and prior to his decease had been a non-affiliated Master Mason for six or eight years. He openly and publicly renounced his allegiance to and denounced the institution of Masonry. In February last he was taken sick at Neosho, in this State, and until his death was cared for by Tyrian Chapter, and buried with Masonic honors. Tyrian Chapter had notice sufficient to be put on inquiry as to the relations sustained to the Order by the deceased, and without any notice to or authority from Springfield Chapter, when such notice might have been given in an hour's time, incurs a debt of some one hundred dollars, and presents the bill to Springfield Chapter for payment. And on the refusal of said Chapter to pay the bill, the question was referred to me.

"There is no such thing as Chapter burial. As a non-affiliated Mason, Companion Crawford had forfeited all claims upon our Order for its benefits. Having renounced and denounced Masonry, he had no claims to Masonic charity. Destitute and in want, it was noble in the members of Tyrian Chapter to befriend him. I am opposed to the principle which will permit one Masonic Body to constitute itself the financial agent of another, without any authority or consent, especially when such authority may be obtained in a very short time if circumstances warrant it. If it becomes a settled principle that no Chapter ought to exercise its charity without the right to demand remuneration therefor, Masonic charity will be as sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. Under the circumstances surrounding this case, I decided that Tyrian Chapter had no legal demand against Springfield Chapter for the expenses incurred by it in behalf of Companion Crawford."

We differ from the first decision that a Companion *must* have served either as King or Scribe to be eligible to High Priest.

2d. We require charges to be preferred after the first Capitular degree has been conferred.

With the last we cordially agree, as we think it misplaced charity to *force* it upon one who utterly and openly repudiated our order.

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Geo. Frank Gouley, and while not so full as in days of yore, yet is intelligent and often brilliant. The apology for the Report is in the preface and is in our judgment an ample one :

“I submit herewith the Annual Report on Correspondence, prepared under the difficulties attendant to temporary bad eyesight, and I beg therefore to be excused for any apparent shortcomings.”

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice.

Most Excellent Companion RUFUS E. ANDERSON (elected),
Grand High Priest.

Most Excellent Companion GEO. FRANK GOULEY (re-elected),
Grand Secretary.

1875.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation was held in St. Louis, October 7, 1875. Rufus E. Anderson, Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

The Grand High Priest delivered the following very *comical*, and we regret to say, true description of what he discovered while hunting for good work, and we presume most of the officers and active members of the Grand Chapter have discovered that which was equally out of place.

Substitute for axe box, soap box, starch box, &c., and we have been right there. We clip the article in full and hope our Grand Chapter will cause it to be read in every Chapter in the jurisdiction, for if that will not show our Companions the ridiculousness of such meanness they are indeed incorrigible :

GRAND VISITATION.

“I have found it convenient to visit officially but few of the Chapters during the year. I have seen and heard enough, however, to convince me that some measures should be adopted by this Grand Body to compel all the Subordinate Chapters to supply themselves with the *necessary* ‘tools and implements’ to exemplify the work of the degrees. The ‘furniture’ of some of our Chapters, I am satisfied, is sadly deficient, and it requires a wonderful stretch of the imagination, upon the part of the candidate, to see the connection between the symbol used and the lesson intended to be explained. It was my province to be present in one of our *old* Chapters of the kind alluded to, a

short time since, at the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree. The Masters of the Vails were without any of the necessary implements of their office—not even so much as a banner. Upon ‘repairing to the scene of their labors,’ the third time, the ‘sojourners’ observed, preserved and brought up ‘from the ruins of the temple’ what proved to be a veritable axe box, with the name of one of the merchants of the place (*still living*) inscribed upon the top of it, and that of a firm *now* engaged in the manufacture of ‘IXL’ axes in a neighboring State engraved upon the sides and end of it. Recognizing ‘the eternal fitness of things,’ we expected to find in it a copy of ‘Wells’ Form Book,’ a pone of corn-bread, a ‘big sunflower’ and a smoke house key; but, to our astonishment, it contained a Bible, and a straight, flat stick, which we took to be a side of the frame of one of the urchins’ slates. If it ever ‘blossomed and bore fruit,’ it must have been of a relative kind, such as we gathered in one of our school-boy days, when after figuring over the whole side of the slate, we failed to get the answer and received a vigorous application of birch. No ‘key’ was deemed necessary, as it was presumed all the candidates ‘knew their letters,’ and the characters upon the ‘top and sides’ of the box were in plain English. What the astonished discoverer took to be ‘pure gold’ over-lying the top as the ‘sun’s rays fell upon it,’ we were satisfied was nothing but a new axe laid out on top of the box for a sign. We were acting High Priest, and, having some experience in discussing and harmonizing conflicting testimony, we essayed the task of proving to the satisfaction of those faithful workmen that our ‘three Ancient Grand Masters’ had something to do with that axe box—that that merchant’s name on the top was a ‘tetragrammaton,’ and that there would have been a triangle around it had there been room after putting on the name of the town and State. We insisted that IXL stood for ‘3,000,’ and that the word ‘Pittsburgh’ was the name of a Jewish town; and the contents of the box was intended for the benefit of wood-choppers in general and ‘the Jewish nation in particular.’ We did not wait to hear the ‘verdict’ of the ‘three,’ but would have been perfectly satisfied with a ‘hung jury.’

“Now, my Companions, is it any wonder that we have too many ‘daubers,’ and that to so many our beautiful ceremonies appear only a series of unmeaning rites? Is it not a burlesque, if not an insult, to their intelligence, with such an ‘outfit’ as we have described, to say to the candidate: ‘I trust you have entered into the spirit of these solemn ceremonies and understand the full import of these interesting *symbols*?’

“I suggest that you adopt a law forbidding the organization of *any* Chapter hereafter in this Grand Jurisdiction until it shall provide itself with the *necessary* implements for symbolizing the degrees, and that some coercive measures be adopted to

compel the delinquent ones already organized to furnish themselves with them. To our mind it is as necessary as a 'suitable place' to meet."

The Report on Correspondence was again by Companion Geo. Frank Gouley, and embraces a review of forty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania, 1874, among the number. We have Companion Gouley in this Report in all his pristine glory, and we are glad it is so, for his sake, as it indicates that he has recovered his health and we have no doubt taught the reporters the value of full reports. We hope they may take the lesson kindly and earnestly. In his review of Massachusetts, he states with regard to honorary membership :

"We think the usage in Missouri settles this case exactly, and as a compromise between Illinois and Massachusetts, we offer it as such, viz : A Chapter may elect as many honorary members as it pleases out of its active membership, but that does not deprive said member of the right to speak or vote or any other original right, nor does it excuse the Chapter from paying Grand Chapter dues for such members. If the Chapter chooses to remit the Chapter dues to such honorary members as an act of charity or other cause, it can do so, provided it is so stated in its By-Laws.

"What is the result? Why, that such Honorary Membership does not amount to a row of pins, beyond the compliment conferred by the title, the same as election to that honor of a member from another Chapter. The Chapter cannot deprive a member of his *active rights*, and thus shelve him by an 'honorary vote'—that is 'too thin;' nor can it get clear of paying Grand Chapter dues of slow members by the same process, and the Grand Chapter of Missouri found out that trick by a stingy Chapter returning over one-third of its members as 'honorary,' and deducting their dues from the account, but it did not work 'worth a cent'—it had to 'come down' with the dollars."

Reviewing Minnesota he says :

"Masonry insists upon her disciples being 'good men and true,' and teaches them the grandest and highest system of morality capable of being brought into practice by mortals and goes further, it covenants them one toward the other to perform these duties. Freemasonry is indifferent whether the world likes this or not. She asks no odds of the world; nothing except her constitutional rights as a society of honorable, upright and loyal citizens under the laws of their country. She draws no lines between the North or South, East or West on any part of the surface

of earth ; nor does she attach herself to any particular Church, or attack any. A man has got to be a good man to become a member of the Fraternity, and the question as to what Church made him such, is not asked ; only this : Did God Almighty first make him one in his heart ?

“ To try to make Freemasonry a vestibule of any Church, or the Church an adjunct of Freemasonry, is wrong to either one or the other, for they are not similar in their construction, and it is only by comparisons that they can be made antagonistic. No, Companion Henderson, let our institution stand alone upon the foundations of its own eternal principles of truth, and if that is not enough, let it go down. We ask no recruits. By our works shall we be known as a universal Brotherhood.”

The following is from his review of Texas :

“ The strangest thing we see about it is, the innovation which allows a Grand High Priest to set aside a fixed law of time, by granting the dispensation at all. The Grand Chapter law is that the candidate shall wait one month, and the Grand High Priest is just as much bound by the law as anybody else, unless there is a *special* provision of the Constitution giving him such power. He does not possess it by any inherent right of office. Furthermore we hold that if the time of probation is *fixed by a law*, that then, even, the Grand Chapter could not grant it, because it cannot change a law by a simple resolution ; if it can one part of the law, it could the whole code. It is this viciously loose way of doing up legislation, and never looking beyond one's nose of immediate expediency which causes such interminable confusion.”

The following from his conclusion :

“ We find Chapter Jurisprudence much more mixed and contradictory than any other department of Masonry. The Commandery laws are almost absolutely harmonious, and the Lodge is rapidly being moulded into uniformity by drawing closer and closer each year to the Ancient Regulations, Landmarks, etc., ignoring a good deal of stuff which crept into the laws some twelve or fifteen years ago ; but the majority of the Grand Chapters seem to have no anchorage, save in the wisdom of some member who happens for the moment to be on top.”

Most Excellent Companion CHAS. F. LEAVITT (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Most Excellent Companion GEO. FRANK GOULEY (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

NEBRASKA.

The proceedings of the Seventh Annual Convocation, which was held at Omaha, November 11, 1873, have come to hand, Most Excellent Robert H. Livingston, Grand High Priest. We should judge from the following extracts from his address, that he ruled his Grand Chapter with a strong but fraternal hand, and entirely for its good.

“I may add that several applications have been made for special dispensations to confer degrees out of time; but to all these I have replied courteously and fraternally, but at the same time firmly, that I could not grant them. Your Grand High Priest should not be above the law, and while I admit the possibility of a case occurring which might require the exercise of his prerogative, I am pleased to inform you that none such have been presented to me. Dispensations, in my opinion, should never be asked for, unless pressing and most urgent causes, which will not admit of delay, imperatively demand the interference of the presiding Grand Officer. The less we have of them, the healthier will our noble Order be.”

Also :

“The Grand Master of our Third Vail having transgressed Masonic law to the extent of meriting and receiving expulsion at the hands of the symbolic Lodge to which he belonged, I promptly declared that office vacant, and appointed Right Excellent Past Grand Scribe, Companion Edward Archbold, of Keystone Chapter, No. 2, to that position in your Grand Chapter, not doubting your approval of such action, and knowing full well the high estimation in which Companion Archbold is held by the fraternity.”

The following will apply to others than those of his jurisdiction, and in the hope it may be read and heeded we give it space :

“Various questions are at present agitating the Masonic mind. Profanity, intemperance, gambling and lotteries are each receiving attention from the Grand Easts of sister jurisdictions, and I feel, Companions, that words of mine would avail little if all the force and beauty of the lessons we have learned are unheeded. Man never was an angel—the utopian idea of abstract perfection on earth seems to be an impossibility. It may be well enough, therefore, to raise the voice of warning, and reach out the fraternal hand to draw back such as lean dangerously over the abyss

of such vices. For my own part, Companions, I fail to see any threatening dangers in this jurisdiction, requiring any interference on the part of your Grand High Priest. In a land as blessed as ours is with churches and temperance societies, every human being, whether a Mason or not, has abundant opportunities of inquiring his way through the sunshine and sorrow of earth, without our assuming the purposes of such bodies to ourselves. Humbly, respectfully, and with full confidence in the better nature of our fellow-beings, I believe our mission to be 'Masonry.' Let us never forget the lessons as taught us—let us practice outside what we learn within our sacred walls, and devote ourselves thoroughly and earnestly to our own great work in its proper division of time—never neglecting our other duties—and all will be well."

By resolution, it was agreed not to print reviews, owing to expense—an unwise economy in our judgment.

Companion ROBERT W. FURNASE (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion WILLIAM R. BOWEN (elected), *Grand Secretary*.

Companion DAVID E. WHEELER, declining a re-election.

1875.

The Eighth Annual Convocation was held at Lincoln, Tuesday, January 5, 1875. Most Excellent Charles F. Goodman, Deputy Grand High Priest, presiding; Grand High Priest Furnase not present, owing to press of official duties; he sent a letter, expressing warm interest, and the decisions he had rendered.

Companion CHARLES F. GOODMAN (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion WILLIAM R. BOWEN (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of Concord, May 19, 1874. Most Excellent Companion Edward Gustine, Grand High Priest, delivered an excellent address and declined a re-election in the following words:

"*Companions:* I have served as your Grand High Priest for two terms, and must decline a re-election. While well aware of my many shortcomings as the highest officer of this Body, I have the satisfaction of having endeavored most faithfully to discharge

the important duties you have imposed upon me. I trust that my conduct has been such, and may so continue to the end, that no Companion will regret that this high and honorable position has been bestowed upon me."

No report on Correspondence.

Companion WILLIAM BARRETT (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN A. HARRIS (elected), *Grand Secretary*.

NEW JERSEY.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Trenton, September 8th, 1875. Most Excellent John Woolverton, Grand High Priest.

The Grand High Priest rendered the following decisions, which suit us exactly:

"No. 1. The reinstatement of an expelled member, in his Lodge, does not restore him to membership in the Chapter.

"No. 2. The petition of a candidate for initiation to the Capitular Degree of Masonry must be recommended by at least two members of the Chapter to which he applies for admission.

"No. 3. An expelled Companion can only be restored by petition and ballot, which ballot must be unanimous.

"I am aware that honest differences of opinion exist among some of our best Masonic minds in regard to one or more of the above decisions, but they were rendered in the belief that they were good Masonic law, and it will now rest with the Grand Chapter to approve or reject them."

The Committee on Grand High Priest's Address, endorse the 1st and 2d of the above, but differ from him on the 3d, in the following words, which we do not fully understand:

"Your Committee regret that they must necessarily differ with the Grand High Priest in regard to the vote necessary to restore an expelled Companion. Their opinion is that the vote which inflicts the penalty is the only competent vote to restore after petition and ballot."

The following cause of complaint we are sorry to find in our sister jurisdiction across the river. But the milk-and-water remedy surprises us. We would say, make them pay or close them up:

"It appearing to your Committee, by the Report of the Grand

Secretary, that more than one-third of the Subordinate Chapters have failed to make their returns and pay their dues for the past year, as required by the general regulations, and in view of the fact that such failure tends to the inconvenience and embarrassment of this Grand Chapter and the officers thereof, your Committee have thought fit to recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

“ *Resolved*, That the serious attention of the several Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction is hereby most fraternally called to the general regulations of this Grand Chapter relative to the making of their returns and the payment of their dues to this Grand Chapter, and especially to Section 19, of said general regulations ; and that the Subordinate Chapters be requested to strictly comply with the same in the future ; and, further, that the Grand Secretary be requested to forward a copy of this resolution, under the seal of this Grand Chapter, to each delinquent Chapter.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Thos. J. Corson, and as usual is very brilliant. He has reviewed the Proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1874 being among the number.

In his review of Florida, he speaks of uniformity of work as follows, and we confess there is a good deal of soundness in the argument :

“ Companion Driggs declares that ‘ the want of uniformity in the esoteric work is the bane of Masonry in any jurisdiction.’ We utterly repudiate this apothegm. In the first place absolute uniformity in language is utterly unattainable. No two men can tell the same story in the same words. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all gave the same history of the Master’s life, but they do not use the same language. For twenty years we have heard enthusiasts, honest but crazy, advocate the necessity of absolute uniformity of ‘ work ;’ we have heard it repeated over and over again that uniformity was the vital essence which alone can give life, health and strength to Masonry ; we have known Grand Lecturers who have been almost paralyzed with horror, if they heard an ‘ if,’ ‘ and,’ ‘ but,’ ‘ to,’ or ‘ or,’ misplaced, as if the whole fabric of Masonry would be shattered thereby. We have some knowledge of ‘ Mnemonics,’ ‘ Custodians of the Work,’ ‘ Keys,’ ‘ Ciphers,’ &c. ; and yet we never knew, we never heard of, any jurisdiction where this will-o-the-wisp was secured. It is right and proper that a certain amount of uniformity should be observed ; but when you insist that absolutely the same words, the same phrases, the same gesticulations, the same modulations of voice should be used everywhere and by every one who does the

work, you make mere automatons, chattering Poll Parrots, of the officers, and crush the very life out of Masonry. In presenting our tithes of mint, anise and cumin in such minor and unimportant matters, we neglect the weightier matters of the law. In wasting our energies in studying words, words, words, we have no time to devote to the history, symbolism and real signification of Masonry. Let us see how this devotion to 'uniformity,' this close observance of minor details, succeeded in bringing the benighted denizens of Africa, under the instruction of a skillful Grand Lecturer, to a realizing sense of their ignorance, until they were eventually led to a Christian frame of mind."

The following from his conclusion expresses his sense of the condition of the Craft, and we think it is the true condition :

"We have made such liberal extracts from the Proceedings of the Grand Chapters which have been noticed as to verify the statement made in the commencement of this Report as to the signal degree of prosperity which has blessed our Institution. There seems to be no need of further comment from us, as we have presented at length such subjects of interest as these Proceedings contain. Suffice it to say that the Craft, wherever dispersed, is an unit on all points of material importance. The differences between us are slight and unimportant, and just such as might be expected to prevail between those who exercise freedom of thought and opinion. With one heart, with one soul, with one mind, the vast army of Royal Arch Masons is seeking the same end,—the elevation of our fellow men, the amelioration of sorrow, the exercise of charity, and the cultivation of Universal Brotherhood."

Most Excellent Companion FRED. G. WIESE (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Most Excellent Companion THOS. J. CORSON (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-eighth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New York, was held in the City of Albany, February 2, 1875.

Most Excellent Thos. C. Cassidy, *Grand High Priest*.

The following from his address, is sensible and sound :

"Many years have rolled by since Royal Arch Masonry occupied the proud position it now holds in the State of New York; the fierce political storm that swept over the land in 1827 nearly

prostrated it. It has now one hundred and ninety-three working Chapters. One important lesson has been derived: Masonry must stand on its own basis; it must have no entangling alliances. Its objects are apparent to all. To feed the hungry, clothe the naked, bind up the wounds of the afflicted, be good citizens, and to practice and promulgate those moral virtues which the Deity has recorded in his book of revelation, are surely sufficient to guide us while traveling the rough and rugged path of life.

The name Freemason is indeed an anomaly, if we are not free from the vices that lower and degrade humanity. Let us therefore so improve the remaining space of life accorded to us on earth, that when our weak and frail bodies become sepulchral dust, our disembodied spirits may soar aloft where dwell those who have received the crown of immortal life. Life is here but a span, and eternity endless; great is the reward offered to those who do the Lord's will upon earth."

The following is also timely, and we feel it would be a wrong to our Craft not to give it circulation, as in our judgment the future must be judged by the past, and as the past has clearly taught us that carelessness in neglecting what we were warned against seriously crippled and almost broke up our Order, when the time of trial took place, by not having the *right* kind of material in our Lodges and Chapters, so we think we should ever be on our guard that if another onslaught should be made we would stand shoulder to shoulder, and thus be able to throw off attacks from any quarter, and be brighter for the trial.

CONCLUSION.

"Companions: Royal Arch Masonry was never in so flourishing a condition as to the number of its Chapters and members, and at no period was there ever such a general diffusion of Masonic knowledge among the Craft as now prevails. One of the dangers of the hour, which has prevailed in some jurisdictions, is *experimental* legislation. We should not, indeed, be opposed to progress in the right direction, but exceedingly cautious to weigh well the merits of the progress proposed before embarking our Royal Craft upon an unknown main.

"But the greatest present danger is the *popularity* of our institution. When the enemy was at the gate our sentinels were ever watchful and guarded. There is no open enemy now; let us see to it that our guards are still set and vigilant, and our camp-fires brightly burning, lest unawares, treachery under the garb of friendship enters our sacred precincts and works confusion among us. Let every Companion feel and act as though the

safety and honor of Royal Arch Masonry depended upon his actions, and that he alone is responsible for any disaster. Then will our Chapters be securely guarded, and good men and true alone will be found within our citadel.

“Under the Great Architect of the Universe, to whom be all the glory, we are indebted to the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers for the inheritance we have so freely received ; they have passed away from their labors, and are in peaceful rest. It is ours to preserve this glorious legacy, and hand it down unchanged and untarnished to those who shall come after us. Let us all see to it that we act well our parts, and are not found unworthy of this high and responsible trust.”

The following from the Committee on Jurisprudence is, we think, sound to the core :

“CYPHERS, KEYS, AND MNEMONICS.

“1. That the decision of the Grand High Priest, condemning the use of cyphers, keys, and mnemonics, or other written or printed aids to memory, has our undivided approbation.

“THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF A CHAPTER.

“2. That no member of a Chapter who is in good standing can be prevented from attending its Convocations on the objection of another member, unless for some overt act committed in the presence of the body, for which the High Priest may deem it proper to exclude him temporarily. The rights of all members are parallel, and no one can be deprived of them without trial, except in the case above mentioned.

“NINE COMPANIONS MUST BE PRESENT.

“3. That nine Royal Arch Masons are required to open a Chapter, and consequently nine must continue to be present in order legally to transact business. But it is not necessary that the nine should all be members of the Chapter in session. Its delinquent members having no right to find fault with the business transacted during their absence.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion D. A. Ogden, and as usual, is a very fine effort. In his review of the District of Columbia, he treats of suspension and expulsion and we think wrongly in the case of suspension. In our practice we say suspension is expulsion in all its effects while it lasts. As for instance, by suspension for non-payment of dues, he is debarred all his rights in every particular while so suspended, which to us is expulsion. But he pays his dues, or they are remitted. By vote

he is then restored to good Masonic standing, but is *non-affiliate*. Suppose he is expelled for unmasonic conduct, he loses his rights, benefits, &c. But he atones and satisfies the Brethren he has repented, and they wish to have expulsion removed, as is often done (with us and others), he is placed in good Masonic standing and is non-affiliate; he now wishes to become a member of some Lodge, he does so by petition in the usual way, also in the Chapter, Commandery, &c.; in either case of expulsion or suspension, and we think ours the right course; we know that many differ from us, but unless we are very obtuse on the subject we have the advantage of principle.

“The first resolution is correct, and the second is surplusage if anything; and the last is, we think, evidence of over-much caution. It does not seem to us that there can be much doubt on the subject. The Blue Lodge suspends by Masonic law and usage, the suspension reaches beyond the Lodge to the Chapter, but it certainly cannot reach in the Chapter further than it does in the Lodge. Afterwards the Lodge, or a competent appellate body restores, or abrogates the suspension, thus restoring the suspended individual to all his rights and privileges; certainly the restoration reaches out as far and in effect accomplishes as much as did the suspension. Now in all this the member is suspended, not cut off, and restoration removes the suspension and restores activity and membership as before. Not so with expulsion, that severs all connection, puts the offender out and closes the door, leaving no root behind; in short, he is dead to the Lodge and to the Chapter. Restoration in such a case cannot (so it seems to us) restore to membership; that can only be done by petition and election. Restoration, or a reversal of the sentence gives back the ‘rights and privileges,’ for that pertains to Masonry generally, and belongs to affiliated and non-affiliated alike; but it does not give back membership where it has been absolutely severed, as by expulsion; for that is a matter and right which pertains to a Lodge or Chapter itself alone. These are suggestions—take them for what they are worth.”

In his review of Florida, he comes to our rescue in a very handsome manner:

“In commenting on the proceedings of Pennsylvania, and the decision of the Grand High Priest, ‘that a Chapter cannot elect one of its members to office whose permanent residence is outside of this (Pennsylvania) jurisdiction,’ he says that this is ‘arbitrary in the extreme.’ But, after all, is it not the only de-

cision that could have been made? It may even be questioned whether the permanent removal of a member from the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter does not sever his membership, and make of him a non-affiliated and visiting Companion where he visits the Chapters. Certainly a petition would not be received from a candidate whose permanent residence was in another jurisdiction; how, then, can a Companion hold and exercise the functions and duties of office in a jurisdiction where he does not reside or really owe allegiance?"

Companion Ogden wonders why we did not receive the Proceedings of New York last year. After inquiry, we can only report that they did not come to hand, and we reciprocate the regrets at their not coming, and also desire to have full interchange with our Companions of that jurisdiction.

He also speaks as follows, which we give for the benefit of our Companions :

"In our judgment Pennsylvania would do better to come into more full accord in its plan and organization with the other States. But we hold to State rights, and believe in it, and shall have no controversy with any who differ with us on what is really a non-essential. But we do want a fraternal greeting from the Keystone State every year, and do not like that the United States mails should prevent so desirable a thing.

"Companion Kelly is evidently a full believer in Deputy Grand High Priests, as indeed he is bound to be, for there are twenty of them in his State, with its eighty-six Chapters. Now in the State of New York, with its one hundred and seventy-five Chapters, we have one Deputy Grand High Priest, and he an elected Grand Officer; and, in the place of the twenty Deputy Grand High Priests, as in Pennsylvania, we have one Grand Lecturer, to visit Chapters and instruct in work, while the Grand High Priest and the Deputy Grand High Priest listen to and answer questions of law, grant dispensations, and perform such other duties as the Constitution and law require. We think ours the better, simpler system, requiring less machinery, and most likely to be effective, preserve uniformity of work, unity of action, and harmony of feeling throughout the entire jurisdiction. It certainly has and does work well with us, and we commend it to all who are in search of a better way, or a way to improve upon a system that does not work well."

We copy the following in full, and recommend its perusal to all :

Address by Rev. James Byron Murray, G. C.

“THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS ROBES.”

Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions:

“One of the strongest controlling powers of the mind is the power of recalling the past by association and suggestion. Our mental nature by these has a two-fold vision and a two-fold power. The past becomes the present, and reads its story as a silent prophet, looking back and shaping the present or the future out of what it sees behind it. The mind has renewed visions, history glows with fresh life, and the past becomes real, and no longer the gorgeous nothingness of a dream. All the great facts, all the startling events of other times, pass in review and affect us with somewhat of their former power. And as we recall those facts and events, by association and suggestion, we are enabled to give them shape, movement, and mental coloring. For it is true that as our minds work and are, so the past is shaped. It stands before us informed with being, or as something we can see or touch. Around it we cause to gather all the working of our thought, all the results of our historic research, all the beauty or grandeur, all the light and shadow which may have marked it when it was not the past but the actual present. By this process of suggestion we form our own pictures of the past, and by knowledge or imagination, by poetic or creative power, we set them round, until they glow or darken as if touched with the colors of an artist’s pencil.

“It is by this principle of association, that Mount Zion seems ever present to us in all its reality, and has such influence over us as individuals or members of the Masonic Order. To us that Mount becomes as it were informed with a special power, and reads out its story like a constantly repeated history. As we look back upon it we see the Temple rising above it, with all its manifold suggestions, and with those marvelous forecastings whose rays shine down to all ages with types of human history and human life. But above the Temple we see the High Priest stand forth beyond all shadows and sacrifices as the central figure, girt about, as it were, with symbols which were the heralds of a more splendid figure in the moral and spiritual life of man—the anointed Prophet, Priest, and King from heaven. As he bends above the offering for sin, as he stands with his breastplate upon him before the Most Holy Place, as he is arrayed in white robes, he pictures and represents one who was to be clothed in our humanity, and by the sacrifice of Himself, was to redeem man, to lift up the fallen human nature to its lost estate, and with the pierced hand of his own offering to crown it with everlasting beauty.

“On looking at the motive, apart from the Divine command and Divine idea, which induced the Israelites to build the Temple, we find one motive prevailing over others, one principle which underlay and gave force to all. We find it manifested most clearly in the conduct of David, in his refusal to accept from Ornan, King of the Jebusites, the gift of the threshing floor on Mount Moriah for an altar. He would not sacrifice to God on that, or by that, which had cost him nothing. This principle, at once the exhibition of self-sacrifice and inner spiritual beauty, was a controlling principle in all the ritual and worship of the Temple. The nation deemed no offering on its part too costly, no gift too magnificent for the Temple worship. It was the wish of all that the service of Jehovah might be rendered with the grandeur of outward detail and the splendor of ceremony; that the ritual in its impression and form might be in accord with the building in which it was celebrated, and call forth and fill the hearts of the worshipers with the sublimest sentiments; that the earthly dwelling-place of God might be fitting for the manifestation of His presence, and the purpose of this nearer contact with His presence might therefore come out clear and beautiful and full of spiritual life to the soul of Israel. And the same motive prevailed in the order and arrangement of the Priesthood. For vastness of number, for splendor of outward look, and for lavishness of support, the Jewish Priesthood excelled the Priesthood of the most powerful and brilliant nations of antiquity.

“Passing over the ranks and order of the Priests and Levites, we come more immediately to the office of the High Priest, with which, as members of a Tabernacle or Chapter, and an ever-building Temple, we have to do. The ordinary priesthood was placed under the jurisdiction of the High Priest, who was surrounded with special dignity, and who, that he might command respect from those about him, was invested with particular garments and set apart to his office with services of solemn grandeur. To him was given the chief part in the worship of the Temple. He had the high duty of appeasing the wrath of God against the people. He was also the chief instructor in the Divine law, in which he had the aid of the ordinary Priests and Levites.

“And so it came to pass that all his official acts bore a special meaning; that the colors and adornments of his dress became a type and prophetic representation, as it were, of the people, and a constant memorial of the presence of God. In the precious stones he carried on his breast, the children of Israel saw a token, read a silent prophecy, that Jehovah would remember them in their tribes and order. In the flowered plate of gold he wore on his mitre they were perpetually reminded that, no less in the magnificent order of creation and providence than in the

glory of worship, God held them as his own people in the hollow of his infinite hand. And when in the service he lifted the vail and entered the sacred shrine as High Priest, they seemed to enter with him by the sound of the bells that marked his movements. When the anointing oil streamed down his garments and touched the fringe with its fragrance, they read in it a consecration of themselves, and saw, as in lustrous symbol, the inward moral beauty with which the spiritual nature should be clothed. In his priesthood, they beheld the shadow of their own; they saw themselves a nation of priests, prophets to the world, speaking of Jehovah as the one worship, foretelling of a grander High Priest, who, by taking man's nature upon Him would clothe the race as kings to God, and by the consecration of His blood upon them, would transform them into a royal priesthood.

"The High Priest had a wide authority. In later times it became very extensive, as, when under the dynasty of the Macabees, he combined in himself the office of High Priest and the duties of a King. He had the full administration of the laws and of the religion of the people. He was also a judge, and his decisions settled all questions which grew out of the proper enforcement of the law of Moses. In still later times, he presided over the council of seventy. While the lower Priests could perform the ordinary duties of the priestly office, he only had the sacred honor of passing behind the inner vail on the day of atonement, and before the holy light which glorified the sanctuary, sprinkling the mercy seat with the blood of the sacrifice and pouring forth the prayers of a pleading nation. He thus occupied the most exalted position given to man—the interpreter and intercessor of a people's penitent cries. He was the chief of Priests, the oracle of truth, the medium of communication between God and humanity, the very special being chosen out of a chosen tribe and family, to stand before that dazzling light which manifested the presence of God.

"The High Priest, moreover was the symbol of a separated or consecrated life, the person who carried to its most marked degree this ideal. He was to be without blemish or bodily defect as the representative of the people, so that he might not compromise the dignity of his office, or fail through lack of physical power in his Temple ministrations. He thus bore, as we have already showed, to the nation a typical life, and his acts spoke with special voice and significance.

"There are three things to be noticed in the ceremony of setting apart the High Priest to his office: there is the ceremony of washing, of putting on the special garments, and of consecration.

"He was to be washed with pure water before he could be robed in his priestly vestments and anointed. This cleansing

was a type of what he should be who stood for the people and ministered before the Lord. After the washing he was arrayed in his robes, and then consecrated. The anointing oil was put upon his head, and in sweet streams ran down to the fringe of his ephod. The anointing symbolized his fitness for the office which he held, and told forth that all strength and grace needed to discharge its duties were of Divine origin. While the ceremony of anointing all the priesthood was much the same, that of the High Priest differed specially in the use of the holy oil. And in this we seem to read the meaning of the inspired Psalm, 'God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.'

"We may here describe the component parts of this oil. It was composed of the sweetest spices of the East. There were fifteen pounds and a half of 'pure myrrh,' that is myrrh that flowed freely from the bark and without the admixture of other materials. Then there was half the quantity of sweet cinnamon. This was the inner rind of a tree which somewhat resembled the laurel of the islands of the Indian seas. This cinnamon was mingled with cassia, a spice stronger and more pungent than itself. These ingredients were placed in three quarts of olive oil. In the earlier times of Israel's history, this consecrating mixture was prepared by Bezaleel, and was preserved by Eleazer the son of Aaron the High Priest. In later times, the sons of the Priests were charged with its preparation and preservation.

"As part of the consecration ceremony, there are two particulars which need mention. The word consecration in this service means the filling of the Priest's hands. This was a sacerdotal or priestly act, which denoted that the gifts of the people were placed in the Priest's hands in trust for the altar service. Then there was the sprinkling of blood on the right ear and the thumb of the right hand, in token of the readiness of the Priest to hear and to do the will of God. The blood was also sprinkled on his garments, because the clothing of the body in special garments was one of the great steps in the process of the consecrated life. The blending of the oil and the blood in one stream, was a fitting close to the ceremony by which the Priest entered on his work of the Priest of God in his Temple.

"The second part of the ceremony, as stated, was the investing of the High Priest in the garments of his office. These garments were prescribed by Divine command, and were symbolical of the work he had to do. He was clothed in them, because they 'were for honor.' His work was honorable, for he was engaged in the work of keeping alive the faith of the people in Jehovah, in educating them to a knowledge of God's law and of His dealings with men, in furthering their temporal and eternal well being. He was clothed in them, because they 'were for beauty.'

They testified to that holiness which is demanded from all those who would stand at last in God's presence. His dress thus set him apart for this special use, and that the office of High Priest in the Jewish worship was of Divine and not of human appointment. Thus prescribed in the use of his garments, thus clothed, he was left no room for the display of personal taste or personal vanity. And by this clothing he kept the idea of Jehovah as King, constantly before the people, and stood as a perpetual safeguard against that love of novelty and change which has in all ages characterized the human mind, and which has been too often indulged in without regard to its practical effect or utility, or in ignorance of the fact whether any high principle would be subserved by it.

"The Robes of the High Priest consisted of special vestments. There were the linen garments which he wore next his flesh, a coat of fine linen or silk, extending from his shoulders to his feet, and a girdle of varied colors to gird the coat in its place. These were common to him with the ordinary Priests. But distinctly apart from these were four special garments of rich materials. These consisted of the Robe or Tunic, the Ephod, the Breastplate and the Mitre. They were called the golden garments, to mark the difference between them and the garments which the High Priest wore on the day of atonement or on the day of his consecration.

"We first find the Robe, or Tunic. This was woven of one piece, and covered the whole body. It was probably of a blue or violet color. It had no sleeves, but had openings through which the wearer could pass his head and arms. The upper border around the neck was richly embroidered, while the lower border, which extended to the feet, was ornamented with bells and representations of pomegranates. These pomegranates added to the beauty of the robe, and the bells served by their constant tinkling to remind the people that the High Priest had entered into the oracle, and called on them to join in worship with him, as the expression of their full accord with him as their representative before God, in his prayers and in the burning incense.

"We next find the Ephod. This was a garment, as the Hebrew name denotes, to wear on the shoulders. It was woven out of blue, crimson and purple cotton and linen, with threads of fine gold running through it in delicate tracery. It had two parts, one to cover the back and the other the breast, joined together at the shoulders. On the straps which connected the parts were two precious stones, on which were engraven the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Of all the precious gems, the onyx was chosen for this position in the Ephod. It was the stone in which all the tribes were represented and equalized before God; and it seems to carry out in symbol the thought that

as each of the tribes had the same space in the signature, so all who believe in God have a portion in the same precious faith, and a share in the same loving kindness and salvation of God.

“The fore part of the Ephod reached only a little below the waist, but the back part reached down to the feet. It was also joined together below the arms, by a girdle of fine-twined linen, richly mingled with wires of gold and threads of scarlet, purple and blue.

“The Pectoral, or Breastplate, was fastened to the Ephod above the girdle, and really formed a part of it. It was composed of the same materials. Its ground work was a cloth of gold. It was about ten inches square, and made like a bag or pouch, with a beautifully embroidered front and lining. The front was set with twelve precious stones, on which were engraven the names of the twelve tribes. These stones were divided into four rows with three stones in each row, and were separated from each other by a moulding of gold. The Breastplate was fastened at the four corners. The upper corners were fastened to the shoulders by a loop or ring at the end of a chain of twisted gold, and the lower corners by two strings or ribbons with rings or hooks, so that they might not fall off, for they were never to be separated from the Ephod. The Breastplate had a twofold name, to signify the splendid part it bore in the religious life of the nation. As it was never to be separated from the Ephod it was called the memorial, to show how precious the High Priest should hold in his memory the tribes of Israel, whose names he carried in his heart. It was also called the Breastplate of Judgment, because it had the Divine oracle of the Urim and Thummim.

“The first row of precious stones had engraven on them the names of Reuben, Simeon and Levi. The first stone was the sardonyx or odem. It was a very valuable and beautiful stone, with a mixture of purple. It was originally supposed to have been found in Sardis, or in the island of Sardinia. It was regarded as bearing a symbolic reference to the character of Reuben. The tribe of Reuben dwelt in the borders of an enemy's country, and had to go armed before their brethren into Canaan. The second stone was the topaz or pitdah. Its color was a pale green with a soft yellow tint; it contained the name of Simeon. The third stone was the carbuncle or bareketh. It comes in its derivation from the Hebrew word to glitter like lightning or gleam like fire; it was inscribed with the name of Levi.

“The second row contained the names of Judah, Dan and Naphtali. The first stone was the emerald or nophek; it was a clear green stone, without any other tint. The next stone was the sapphire or sappir; it was of a pure, deep blue, and inferior only to the diamond in lustre and hardness. The last stone in the row was the diamond; this stone surpassed all others in value and beauty.

“The third row was dedicated to the names of Gad, Asher and Issachar. The first stone was a ligure or leschem, and corresponded to the jacinth or hyacinth; it was a stone of a tawny color, mixed with a dim red. The next stone was the agate or shevoo; this stone being composed of a variety of minerals, was not uniform in its color; it was often, however, very beautiful, picturing in its depth trees, and sky, and soft, cloudlike rays. The third stone was the amethyst or achlamah. This was the fabled stone which was said to cure drunkenness; it had the dark red color of the wine of Palestine mingled with deep blue and purple.

“The last or lower row of stones, was inscribed with the names of Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin. The first stone was the beryl or tarshish; it was a brilliant, transparent gem of a bluish green color, like the waters of the sea. The next stone was the onyx or shoham; it was a bluish white gem, with dark and white circles or zones. The last stone was the jasper or yashpah. This was a hard gem of a green color, often tinted with red, white and yellow.

“These were the names and the various colors of the gems which formed the Breastplate of the High Priest. They not only gave it lustre and beauty, but they constantly reminded him, that the children of Israel were his guardian care as Priest of the Most High God.

“The part of the dress which was most full of meaning and mystery was that known as the Urim and Thummim. These words signified manifestations and truth or light, and perfection or completeness. The Urim and Thummim were carried inside the Breastplate of the High Priest, as the law of Moses was carried inside the Ark of the Covenant. Not a word describes them, and when we meet them in Scripture they are mentioned as things already known; and they pass on from the first High Priest Aaron to Eleazer his son, and down through Jewish High Priests, until they, the Ark of the Covenant, the table of the law, and the mystic light that burned between the cherubim, floated out into irrecallable space to be seen no more in like form.

“The Urim and Thummim were those portions of the High Priest's dress which were used in consultation upon special and difficult occasions. By means of these an answer was given from the Sheckinah or light that rested above the ark. When the High Priest had to inquire of God concerning war or peace, or matter of great moment to the people, he stood before the vail with the Breastplate upon him, and then God, either by a living voice, or by some secret communication of His Spirit gave answer, enlightening the mind with the Urim or the light of knowledge, or satisfying the perplexed and doubtful thoughts with the Thummim of a full solution of the matter in question.

If it was for the revealing of some unknown truth, or the forecasting or prophecy of some future event or issue, the Urim and Thummim furnished an unfailing guide, by which the people might rest as perfectly assured, as if out of the future that event or issue had stood forth revealed for what it was.

“In this way we see somewhat the force of the name given to these mysterious parts of the priestly dress. They are lights and perfections, and bore reference to the light that came forth from Him who is light uncreated; and doubtless when light was given to the Israelites from these mysterious things, it carried the mind back to the time when, from Sinai with its awful grandeur, there came forth a living voice and spoke to Moses, and by such communications of the divine will made clear the way of duty, and by such light of heaven transfigured his face until it shone with more than mortal lustre.

“The next article of dress was the Mitre. This was the head-dress proper of the High Priest. There was first the turban or bonnet, common to him and the inferior priests. The bonnet consisted of eight yards of fine linen, with varied colors of blue, purple and scarlet; it was wound around the head in the form of the turbans worn by the Persians and other Eastern nations. The crown itself surmounted the bonnet and ended in a little cup-shaped bell. It in this way really constituted a tiara or three-fold crown. On the front and extending well across was a plate of gold, on which was graven the words, *Kodesh La Jehovah*, or Holiness to the Lord. The meaning is a flower, that is a flowered plate of gold. This plate was bound to the mitre with blue lace. It symbolized full consecration of the spiritual life to God. As it glittered on the head of the High Priest, it seemed to shine in constant rebuke to heathenism and its idolatry. It also signified the spiritual nature of the Hebrew religion, and showed the Israelites that the degrading idolatry and the profane license of the nations could not enter into the worship of Jehovah, and that purity of heart and life, of inward thought and outward act, would alone be accepted by Him to whom all worship is due.

“Thus robed, it was no wonder that the people should regard the dress of their High Priest as full of mystery. We are told that these robes struck even angels with awe and reverence; and no wonder, for Jehovah had shaped them as pictures of higher and grander things. And so we read, that when Aaron in his full robes stayed the plague in the matter of Korah, the destroying angel gave place to him; for in the long garment was the whole world, and in the four rows of stones on the ephod was the glory of the patriarchs graven, and the majesty of God on the diadem of gold. And in later times we read, that when Alexander the Great moved up his army to besiege Jerusalem, the High Priest at the head of a procession of Priests and Levites went forth to meet him in full robes; the king was so over-

powered by the splendor of the High Priest's garments, that he leaped from his horse and fell at his feet to worship him. The king then withdrew his army, asserting that the God of the Hebrews had appeared to him in a vision, and clothed in the robes of majesty in which the High Priest had been arrayed.

"And we can readily imagine by the law of Association mentioned, how the clothing of the High Priest with its marvel and its symbolism would affect the worship of the people, and how the Temple would become under all this the earthly dwelling-place of faith, and the grand point around which all the worship of the Hebrew would move as the stars in their orbits move around one central sun.

"Recall once more that Temple by the light of history and association, and see it as it crowns the summit of Mount Moriah. There it stood, its gorgeous architecture and its dome rising white over the hills and valleys; its golden vine flashing back the loving and warm glances of the sun. And when we enter, by the same power what a marvel is within. There is a mingling of softened light and braided shadow, a blending of tumultuous and many-voiced worship and serene repose, a gathering of inspiration touching and warming an atmosphere of holiness and love. An air of praise swells and fills the chiselled spaces. There is the majesty of God's command ordering all things, and the light that streams from between the wings of outstretched cherubim glorifies the sanctuary as with the lustre of a divine presence. Massiveness mingling with the softer lines of beauty; strength clothing itself with magnificence, types of the Omnipotent, are there. And there, too, are the finished works of human genius, set around with the divine ideals that came floating down through the centuries from Tabernacle and the flame-cleft tops of Sinai. There the glory of God's earthly manifestations mingles with the labors of his creations. The moral and the spiritual, as if to be the perpetual source of Israel's consolation and hope, almost take visible form and type themselves in gold or shine in sculptured stone. The Temple thus is the seeming abiding-place of Israel's highest aspirations. The vast rites of sacrifice wrapped in prophecy and symbol, the gorgeous ritual celebrated by robed High Priest at the head of stately procession of Priests and Levites, tell the people something of the value of a human soul whom God honors in bringing it near himself in worship. And as we seem to stand before all this, as we look around on this wondrous structure, built for the spreading of the truth of the one God, the sound of worship from clothed priests, the incense that rises day and night, the light falling in silent lustre from the ever-fed lamps, point out loftier things—a temple not made with hands, where the redeemed of God shall worship before Him, at whose feet angels veil their faces and seraphim burn on wings of splendid fire.

In connection with the High Priest in our Chapters we find

two officers, who have a moral bearing as the High Priest himself to two officers in the Jewish economy—the Scribe and King. And first we notice the Scribe. The Scribes, in Jewish history, were known by the name of Sopherim. This title denoted the fact that they either wrote out the law, or made accurate classifications of its special precepts. They were in earlier times a kind of military secretaries; and the high place given them, side by side with the High Priest, would seem to mark their position as one of great honor in the nation.

After the seventy years of the captivity, the needs of the times demanded men of accurate knowledge of the laws, and of the language which was passing rapidly into the Aramaic tongue; and so the scribes who were masters of law and languages, advanced in position, until their office overshadowed even the Priesthood. They were ‘to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel’s statutes and judgments.’ From this time on, their office and function became still more prominent. They formed themselves into corporate bodies, under a controlling ‘head or shepherd.’ They became most emphatically doctors of the law, and in their legal capacity solved questions of right and wrong. They became the settled instructors of the people, and so wielded a vast influence in the intellectual life of Israel. In the sense that the Scribe was Secretary of State to the King, we as Royal Arch Masons retain the name, and as representing Haggai who was called pre-eminently the Scribe. In our Chapters the Scribe is the third officer, and is clothed with purple, as bearing a two-fold reference to the office of secretary and doctor or expounder of the law.

“Then, second, we have the King. He is regarded as next in authority to the High Priest; he represents Zerubbabel, who received the office of Governor of Judea from Cyrus, King of Persia. The reason the King is regarded as inferior to a High Priest in the government of a Chapter is, that after the rebuilding of the Temple of Zerubbabel, the High Priest and not the King of Israel acted as the Viceroy of the Persian monarchs, to whom, as a conquered people, the Jews paid taxes or tribute. His robe is scarlet.

“From the review and suggestions brought before us, let us, companions, draw one or two practical conclusions. As Scribes, and Kings, and High Priests, we have the welfare of our Order to maintain. The very robes with which we were invested at our installation have their meaning, familiar to us all. The purple of the Scribe, with its symbolism of union, speaks ever to us of the brotherly love of charity, that blending of earnestness and truth which we should at all times and in all places cherish toward each other as members of one great Order. The scarlet of the King pictures to us the fervency and zeal which should characterize our acts, as officials working in an institu-

tion whose corporate life demands activity and energy in those who guide its duties. The varied colored robes of the High Priest represent to us that commingling of graces and virtues which should adorn him who presides over others, to win them to himself and the body he governs. These things tell us what are our duties as members of a corporate life. They tell us how we should cultivate all the principles they symbolize, and let them be read in our outward acts and moral being. By devotion to all these principles, by a steady adherence to all the moral precepts they embody, we can alone make Royal Arch Masonry maintain its true position as a moral teacher before men. By such devotion, by such adherence, we can uphold and strengthen our Order, can make it so strong in all that is really good, that we need not fear what evil men may do unto it. Then shall it rise from such foundations as these, firm and victorious above all assaults as the rock that has stood for ages in the sea. There it has stood in the boundless waters, and every wave has rushed up and threatened to hide it; but all the time, unseen and far below the surging ocean tide there was a foundation which bore up its top to the waters, and made it so strong that it bade defiance to the proud waves, and dashed them back in broken and baffled foam.

“And then the conclusion, personally for ourselves. As the great principle which underlay the whole Jewish ritual in its earlier days was self-devotion and self-offering, so our Order, in the moral connection which exists between it and Judaism, has its parable, ever speaking to us of self-consecration. This will give beauty to our conduct; it will glorify our deeds, and set them round with the light of true heroism. We must let the spirit of our Order pass in and possess us, and all its holy teaching pass in and become one with our life. And what a splendid life it may become for us individually, if we only let it mingle with the religion of God, with the light that ever gleams from our Urim and Thummim—the inspired word that rests upon our altar. That word with its divine voice will tell us to heal the sick, to pity the weak, to raise the fallen, and bear one another’s burdens. This course will make the common sublime, the dull beautiful, the mean noble, and the life though in a lower degree as the life of those who move in Divine service before the throne of God. Ours, as theirs, must be the consecrated being and work. And we must do our work from this spirit of self-consecration, and not from the mere sense of duty or from prejudice, and then we shall best illustrate Masonry in our lives and show forth its precepts as truth and virtue. Then shall we be enabled to go among men with the light of our altar kindling on our face, and its influence falling like refreshing dews on those around us. Then shall we be fitted for higher ministries, by the working of the Spirit who sanctifies those who hold to

His own truth, until, in the length and breadth and depth and height, the principalities and powers of our whole nature we are fashioned for the service which never ends. Then shall we enter the Temple not made with hands, to minister transfigured before the Throne; as Scribes, bearing on our cleansed hearts, the law of Divine truth; as Kings, crowned and sceptered with eternal life; and as High Priests, passing white-robed within the vail, to bear the censer with everlasting incense, and to look upon Him whom we have faithfully served, face to face in immortal vision."

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina was held in the city of Raleigh, June 7, 1875. Most Excellent Companion Horace H. Munson, Grand High Priest.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we quote the following:

"In 1868 this Grand Chapter adopted a system of work, which probably through the non-appointment of Lecturers (none during my term of office having applied) has not been fully disseminated throughout this jurisdiction. It is desirable, nay important, that some means be adopted by this Grand Body to place before the subordinates this important part of Royal Arch Masonry, and I hope your combined wisdom will suggest some practical method whereby that much needed result will be attained. I had the honor, at our last annual Convocation, of calling your attention to the subject of Blue Lodge non-affiliation as affecting Capitular Masonry. The committee, to whom the matter was, by resolution, referred, reported, 'That no consideration be had on the subject until after the determination of the pending question on that subject by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina,' that body has met and decided the 'pending question,' and yet I fail to see how in the light of *its* action you are able to legislate more advisedly than before. This is a matter of such vast importance to the weal or woe of our constituency, that I again appeal to you to decide the question, viz: Does non-affiliation in the Blue Lodge work a corresponding non-affiliation in the Chapter."

The part of the above that applies to affiliation we should imagine should be settled by themselves without regard to the Grand Lodge, nor should we think the Grand Lodge would thank them for expecting legislation from that source, or if they did, we would still pass our own laws to suit ourselves, and rejoice if

they were pleased, and not care if they were not. The Grand Chapter afterwards passed the following :

“II. ‘Non-affiliation.’—We present the following: *Resolved*, That the standing of a Royal Arch Mason, in a Royal Arch Chapter is not affected by any action of a Blue Lodge, except in case of expulsion or suspension.”

Companion James Southgate presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence, and reviews the Proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1874 being among the number. The following from his review of Iowa contains a little good advice to those who are members of the General Grand Chapter, and when he says, “we were not aware that we could go behind the General Grand Chapter on any point,” &c., it ought to have salutary influence upon those it advises ; as we take it, that is sound :

“The report on Foreign Correspondence, by Companion T. S. Parvin, is worth more than one hundred and fifty dollars (the amount paid for it), and we regret that we have already exceeded our limit on this State, so a more extended notice of this valuable document cannot be given. He reviews all the Grand Chapters but five in the compass of fifty-three pages, as the Committee on Finance said ‘without clipping.’ This Companion loves hard work. We don’t, and scissors are a good institution when one is pressed for time on these reports. We are inclined to differ with this Companion on some points ; especially the status of non-affiliates in their relation to the Chapter. He goes too far on the other extreme we think, and if we thought he was one of the ‘trooly loil’ to the General Grand Chapter, we would refer him to Companion Drummond’s decisions on this point. We were not aware that we could go behind the General Grand Chapter on any point, that being considered the highest tribunal, but we find in many jurisdictions rulings so different, that we hardly know where we stand. He joins with Companion Wiggin, of California, in prayer for the ‘advent of that day when all shall be united either to agree or disagree, to have a General Grand Chapter or to disband it. We say so too. Either abide by its decisions or repudiate its jurisdiction ‘*in toto*.’”

Companion THOMAS W. DEEVENY (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion DONALD W. BAIN (elected), *Grand Secretary*.

OHIO.

The Fifty-ninth Annual Convocation of Ohio was held in Put-in-Bay, September 8, 1875. Companion J. Kelly O'Neill, Grand High Priest.

The following, from his address, shows that he looks after the proper conduct of all under his charge, and is not afraid to take responsibility:

“There is, perhaps, no duty so frequently neglected by the officers and members of subordinate bodies as that of dealing in a prompt and efficient manner with Masonic officers; and none save the offenses themselves from which the fraternity so much suffers. The principles of the Order on the subject of all intemperance and excess are clearly defined and well understood. No one can violate the moral laws, disregard his duty to society, or debase, in his own person, the dignity and beauty of the temple, erected by the Supreme Architect for the indwelling of a human soul, and not violate the Masonic laws. Yet such offenses are even habitually committed by Masons. The facts known and regretted by officers and members; but our laws not enforced; the Fraternity suffers, but the offender remains a member and publishes our disgrace, and his own, by appearing as a Mason on all public occasions. To the officers of our subordinates especially, is intrusted the reputation and well being of our Order. They are to guard the morals and correct the irregularities of their members; and it is only through them, that the authority of the Grand Chapter and its officers can efficiently act; and should they neglect or disregard their obligations, it is upon them that the authority of the Grand Officer must fall. The necessity for a more vigilant and effectual supervision of the conduct of their members by the officers of your subordinates was painfully manifest when recently I saw a member, and until the present year the High Priest of one of your subordinates, grossly intoxicated while attending court and in the attempted discharge of his professional duties, and being credibly informed that such manifestations were not unfrequent, I again felt compelled to exercise unusual authority, and directed his successor to cause the removal of so evil an example by either the reformation of the Companion or his exclusion from membership.”

Companion William L. Bulchner presents the Report on Correspondence, embracing fifty-five pages, and reviewing thirty-three Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1873 and 1874 being among the number.

He puts himself on the objection question as follows, in his review of New York:

“This objection question has been a point of very much difference of opinion among the repertorial staff; we are strongly in favor of the right of simple objection, without being compelled to state the objections, or to prefer charges, as that would require sometimes the objector to divulge secrets that are confided to him. We speak in this matter from personal experience; a gentleman applied to our Lodge; his reputation was good; his standing in society excellent; he was elected; we received afterward the first information of the application, and objected to him being initiated; because *we knew as his physician* that he was an immoral man.

“Was it our duty as a Mason to object? We say it was.

“Would it have been right of us to state our objections and betray the confidence that he had placed in us? We would have degraded our noble profession by doing so.

“If any of the Companions, who are in favor of stating objections, or preferring charges, can tell us how to get out of a scrape of that kind, we would be glad to hear it.”

Companion JOSEPH B CHAFFEE, was elected *Grand High Priest*, and Companion CHRISTOPHER G. FOX, *Grand Secretary*.

Exaltations during the year, 1,428; members reported, 18,984.

In answer to our question last year he responds as follows:

“Ohio is fraternally mentioned; and Companion Kelly asks Companion O’Neall to describe the ceremonies which he performed in public when installing the officers of Wilmington Chapter, No. 63, as he never had the good fortune to see them; and if they were public, of course there could be no harm in publishing them. We may be a little slow to comprehend, but we must confess we cannot exactly see the point Companion Kelly wants to make. The installation exercises can be found printed in every book of the Chapter, and we cannot see any impropriety in using them in public, and install the officers of a Chapter in presence of persons who are not Royal Arch Masons.”

We answer, but we have no book of the Chapter, and we really do not know what those services are, and would like very much to know. We are not captious, we only ask for information; please give us the matter in full.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of Charleston, February 9, 1875. Most Excellent Augustine T. Smythe, Grand High Priest. He thus speaks of the Craft in his jurisdiction:

“I can again most heartily congratulate you, Companions, upon the condition of the Craft throughout the jurisdiction. Since our last Convocation, harmony and peace have prevailed in our midst, while prosperity has attended our steps. Ripples there have been upon the surface, but *only* ripples, tending but to give freshness to the scene, and to break the monotony and impart a healthful life and interest. With foreign jurisdictions our intercourse has been most pleasant, nor has anything occurred to mar in any way our intimate and fraternal relations.”

The following upon work of the Chapter shows how hard it is to depart from the good old plan :

“To my own mind, the subject admits of little question and no doubt. Starting out with the proposition that no system of hieroglyphics has ever been, or can be, devised by man which cannot also be unraveled by man, I am brought face to face with the solemn obligations of the O. B., which we all remember, and around which I can see no road of escape. If it be answered that such a system can be devised as would be practically, and to all intents and purposes, safe, because so contrived as to render the labor of deciphering too great for the result to be obtained, I reply, that the principle is there still the same, but that even granting the truth of the answer, the end desired fails of being accomplished, because the very difficulty makes it almost, if not entirely, useless to those whom it was intended to benefit. Besides which, if the Grand Chapter ‘authorizes’ any system of hieroglyphics, the floodgate is removed, and the Companions, finding that the higher authority has seen fit to avoid the plain and evident meaning of the law, and issue in writing its work, feels relieved from any moral obligation in the matter, and the result will be a multiplication of writings in one cipher and another, until finally we return to the identical difficulty which we are now eradicating, but with the loss of the vantage ground which we now occupy. No; when once we commence to quibble with the law and with our conscience, we enter upon a tortuous path, from which there is no return. The difficulties to be overcome are, without doubt, great, but not so great as to require us to swerve in any manner from the strict path of duty.

“But, besides, experience has I think proved that where aids are liberally furnished in the shape of rituals, monitors, etc., the disposition to learn the work thoroughly, so as to be able to exemplify it without the aid of a book, becomes less and less. Resting upon these artificial props (and how much more if they be authorized and recognized by the Grand Chapter), the officers never do learn their work, and we exchange a little more exactness to set phrases, for that freedom and impressiveness in the conferring the degrees, which alone can be had where all engaged know thoroughly the parts belonging to their respective stations.

“For these reasons the Grand Council have been unable to issue any system of hieroglyphics, and the matter is thus laid before you for sober serious thought, trusting that due reflection will lead you to the same conclusion to which they have arrived.”

We should say better want uniformity of work than adopt any plan of printing it.

He decides that an actual Past Master must have the Past Master's degree conferred upon him again in the Chapter.

Taken altogether we think the address is one of the best we have read.

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion J. E. Burke, we suppose, as he is Chairman of the Committee. He fraternally reviews Pennsylvania for 1873, and gives us a rub as follows:

“In his remarks on South Carolina we are disposed, however, to think him rather hypocritical when he says: ‘At the request of the Grand Chapter’ the High Priest delivered his address, no doubt already prepared, and thinks it savors of affectation.

“Affectation of what? we would ask our Companion. Of course the address is prepared—everybody knows it, and the request is not intended to indicate, and we do not see how a request does necessarily indicate, that it is impromptu. It is nothing more than a graceful manner of introducing the subject, and ought not to be mistaken for affectation any sooner than more abrupt communications are to be commended for beauty.”

In the above the printer, of course, made a mistake in printing one word. No doubt *hypercritical* is intended, and we say the matter is not one for us to quarrel about. Only we thought that it was the duty, or at least the custom, of the Grand High Priest to read or make his address, and we think he is the only officer who has got the right *to do it without* being requested.

Companion AUGUSTINE T. SMYTHE (re-elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion MYER B. MOSES (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, was held in the City of Nashville, November 4, 1874. Most Excellent Joseph M. Anderson, Grand High Priest.

“I trust that it may not be deemed out of place that I should, in this address, make a suggestion or two about a matter which

for several years, perhaps, indeed, I might say for many years past, has provoked the attention and reflection of many intelligent Masons. I allude to the question of Chronology—Masonic Chronology. It is now nearly twenty-nine hundred years since our great prototypes lived in the once beautiful city of Jerusalem, the ground-place and principles of Masonic institutions. By history and by traditions unrecorded, save upon the tablets of memory, the Masonic Order has come down for centuries to us, and we always find Masons averse to what, by some, are called changes or innovations. Here as a Mason is first taught he is disposed to follow, the principle is a correct one in the main. Mere change is not always an improvement, and serious innovations are calculated often to do away with what was once a grand original. Some things ought not to change or be changed. The decalogue delivered to Moses amid the thunders of Sinai has come down to us from the primeval times unchanged and unaltered, and should go down the line of humanity just as received, until time shall be no more. And in venturing to speak of corrections and improvements, we utterly disclaim any willingness on our part to interfere with any of the landmarks planted by our illustrious head, and by which the Brothers in Masonry, from time immemorial, have been guided in life and death. But while the great underlying principles of Masonry are to-day what they were in the time when our three illustrious Masters planned the Order, we certainly, in saving by tradition, have gathered together some points without regard to proper inquiry in the matter of Chronology especially. And we can but hold that Masonry, like all human affairs, is progressive and expansive; progressive as all human institutions are and should be, expansive as all broad and generous propositions are. The grand principles of Masonry, founded as they are, on eternal truth and justice, are invariable and unchanging, and must forever so remain. Only in the light and glory of that upper and better world, to which all Masonic teachings direct us, will we be able to comprehend and enjoy the full and unrestricted beauty and glory of the principles we attempt to follow and expound on earth."

No Report on Correspondence.

Companion WILBUR F. FOSTER (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion JOHN FRIZZELL (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of Burlington, Friday, June 12, 1874. Most Excellent Companion John W. Clark, Grand High Priest.

The following decisions were made by him, the first of which is exactly right; the second no doubt in accordance with the Constitution of that Jurisdiction:

“After a Companion has been exalted in a Chapter, can a by-law be enacted which shall deprive him of the privilege of signing the Constitution and by-laws to complete his membership?”

“My decision was that membership follows the conferring of the degrees, and that any by-law conflicting therewith was unconstitutional and void.

“To an inquiry as to whether the name of a Companion might be struck off the roll of membership of a subordinate Chapter for non-payment of dues, I made the following reply:

“If a Companion shall refuse to pay the dues to his Chapter as prescribed by the by-laws, he violates his obligation; and, upon proper proof, at a regular Convocation, and after a due trial, he may be indefinitely suspended, at the pleasure of his Chapter.’ ”

The Committee on Grievances made the following report. In the light of the decision of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, as above, they might have left out after *signing the By-Laws*, also.

“*To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Vermont:*

“Your Committee on Grievances respectfully report, that they have had under consideration the status of several Royal Arch Masons that have been exalted in Abenaqui Chapter, No. 19.

“A by-law was adopted by the Chapter some time since requiring that parties must be elected to membership after receiving the degrees.

“Last year Companion Searl, High Priest, by advice of Most Excellent Grand High Priest, decided that parties exalted in the Chapter were entitled to membership on signing the By-Laws, and the Most Excellent Grand High Priest has confirmed this action of the High Priest by a formal decision. It seems to your Committee that the decision of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest must stand. We therefore recommend that the Most Excellent Grand Chapter declare all Royal Arch Masons exalted in Abenaqui Chapter, who have signed the By-Laws, to be members in good standing in said Chapter.”

The Report on Correspondence was again by Companion J. M. Poland. Pennsylvania for 1873 receives fraternal notice. The report is a very good one, rather conservative in tone, perhaps, but always courteous.

Companion JNO. M. CLARK (elected), *Grand High Priest*.

Companion W. H. S. WHITCOMB (re-elected), *Grand Secretary*.

WISCONSIN.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Milwaukee, February 16, 1875. Most Excellent Companion J. H. Evans, Grand High Priest. He reports having granted but one dispensation to receive the degrees out of time, which, in our judgment was one too many.

He reported three decisions, the only of interest being the first, which is as follows:

“1st. Can a Master Mason who has lost an eye be legally elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter?”

“Decided—That the loss of an eye does not prevent a full compliance with all the requirements in Masonry, hence should not bar a Master Mason from receiving the Capitular Degrees.”

The following we copy from the Grand High Priest's address, and assure him that our plan described fully in last year's report will measureably remove the difficulty. The teaching and keeping of subordinates properly in the traces will require the expenditure of some money, whether by our plan or the paying of a Grand Lecturer. And we think that as soon as you realize that fact you have partly cured the evil. Next increase the dues of the Chapter so as to meet the additional expense, and the remedy is complete. But for the credit of the Chapter, for the credit of your Grand Chapter, and as a matter of common duty, we would cure it instantly, for from the picture as drawn, we think delicacy is out of place, reform ought to be the watchword.

“There seems to be a necessity for the Grand Chapter to make some better provision for communicating the work adopted in this jurisdiction.

“So long as the Grand Chapter paid the expenses and per diem of the Grand Lecturer, his services were in constant demand during the winter months.

“Since the adoption of the resolution requiring subordinates receiving service to pay the bills, as provided in Section 4 of Article II, of the Constitution, that office (notwithstanding the superior attainments of our Grand Lecturer,) is no longer beneficial to the subordinate Chapters, nor profitable to the officer.

“The present method (if used) is very expensive to those Chapters located at great distances from the home of the Grand Lecturer; consequently there is a disposition to shift along as best they can without his much needed services; and the result, is constantly increasing errors in the work. Some provision should be made whereby all the Chapters in the State may have more equal and ready means of obtaining the lectures.”

The following, if enforced (here at home as well as in our sister jurisdiction), would be decidedly beneficial:

“It is to be regretted that so many Chapters in this jurisdiction, entirely ignore one of the most important regulations of the Grand Chapter.

“Section 11 of Article V of the Constitution requires that candidates shall pass an examination as to their proficiency before advancing to a higher degree. If this law was rigidly enforced by all our Chapters, the services of the Grand Lecturer would not be so often needed, and our subordinates would be more efficient in their work, having on hand at all times good material for officers.

“I trust that hereafter all the Chapters in the State will enforce this regulation, and insist upon it, that each candidate has a true conception of the obligations and fully understand the means of recognition: he should advance towards the inner sanctuary only as he makes himself familiar with the lessons, obligations and landmarks over which he has traveled. Experience has proven that comparatively few Masons become posted in the work and lectures after having received all the degrees.

“Without wishing to appear as interfering with the prerogatives of Chapters, I feel called upon to urge upon the representative Masons here, to insist upon a more rigid examination of the qualifications of candidates for the Capitular degrees.

“There seems to be a general desire in nearly all our Chapters to increase in numbers, even though it be done at the expense of the material.

“We want no negative men; but only those of whom we know something positively good.

“We should always have in mind when called upon to cast a ballot, that Masonry is not a reformatory institution; that while its teaching and precepts will doubtless have a tendency to make good men better, it was never intended to make bad men good.”

The law above referred to is as follows, *and is good*:

“The examination of candidates for advancement, provided for in Article V, Section 11 of the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, shall be limited to the obligation of the degree and

knowledge of means of recognition—and the candidate shall be able not only to repeat the obligation, but to give evidence that he understands what it means, and has a proper conception of his Masonic duties under and by virtue thereof.”

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion J. P. C. Cottrill, and is an able and interesting Report; he wrote the whole of his Report of sixty-eight pages, and reviewed the Proceedings of thirty-three Grand Chapters (Pennsylvania was not of the number, which we honestly regret). We do not like the form of the report near so well as if he had copied extracts from the Proceedings reviewed, and then dealt his vigorous, sensible, though kindly blows, giving us an opportunity of judging of the soundness of his raps to the particular subject. We hope that the present general form of Reports will be maintained, as being of more interest to those who read them. The printing is no great matter of expense, and they can read the extracts or not, just as they wish.

Most Excellent Companion JONATHAN H. EVANS, *Grand High Priest*.

Most Excellent Companion JOHN H. WOODHULL, *Grand Secretary*.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF UNITED STATES.

The Twenty-second Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter was held at Nashville, Tennessee, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1874.

GRAND OFFICERS.

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| M. E. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Maine, | G. G. H. P. |
| Comp. JAMES M. AUSTIN, New York, as | D. G. G. H. P. |
| “ THEODORE S. PARVIN, Iowa, as | G. G. K. |
| “ CHARLES MARSH, California, | G. G. S. |
| “ JOHN McCLELAN, Massachusetts, | G. G. Treasurer. |
| “ CHRISTOPHER G. FOX, New York, | G. G. Secretary. |
| “ WILBUR F. FOSTER, Tennessee, as | G. G. C. H. |
| “ DANIEL H. WHEELER, Nebraska, as | G. G. R. A. C. |
| “ REV. MARCUS B. DEWITT, Tenn., as | G. G. Chaplain. |
| “ GEORGE SIEFERLE, Tennessee, as | G. G. Sentinel. |

The Convocation was numerously attended, and we recognize many names of those who have shed bright lustre upon our Order

among those who were present. From the General Grand High Priest's address we clip the following, by which it will be seen that a little step further, and the General Grand Chapter will be side by side with our practice in Pennsylvania :

"Under the old law, a Mason might be a member of more than one Lodge; in later times this was modified by legislation, so that membership is limited to a single Lodge; in consequence, it was held that the membership of a person named in a dispensation is not affected by the dispensation, but that he still remains a member of the chartered Lodge, which, as a logical consequence, alone has penal jurisdiction over him.

"Various modifications of this law have been made, but I believe the best and simplest system is to require petitioners for a new body to obtain their dimits before they organize under their dispensation, and to authorize them, when so organized, to exercise all the powers of chartered bodies, save the installation of officers.

"I would not have the officers installed, and thus made members of the Grand Body, until an opportunity is afforded for their work to be examined, and their capacity to manage the affairs of a Masonic Body determined; I would still have Bodies Under Dispensation remain *experiments*, but with powers enough to test the question whether they are *sucessful* experiments, in performing the duties which will be required of them when they are permanently organized."

The following we give as information :

"There is so much misapprehension concerning the historical and legal relations of the General Grand Chapter to the State Grand Chapters, that I beg your indulgence a few moments while I give a summary of the history of their organization.

"This Body is the oldest Sovereign Grand Chapter in the world. The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was organized earlier, but it was attached to, and under the authority of, the Grand Lodge, and did not become independent for several years.

"This body was organized in January, 1798, as the Grand Chapter of the States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, under the name of the 'Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America.' It was provided in its original constitution that there should be in each State a Deputy Grand Chapter, of which the Grand Chapter should have the Superintendence, 'with the right of appellate jurisdiction over all their proceedings and determinations, with power to disaffirm and disannul them.' It provided the time and place for the formation of the Deputy

Grand Chapters of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, but retained Vermont and New Hampshire under its own jurisdiction. At the several times and places thus fixed, and by the authority thus given, Deputy Grand Chapters were formed in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York.

"In 1799, the Grand Chapter changed its name to General Grand Chapter, but confined its jurisdiction to the same States. It changed the name of the Deputy Grand Chapters to State Grand Chapters. Vermont was then placed under the jurisdiction of New York, and New Hampshire under that of Massachusetts, until Grand Chapters should be formed in those States. In 1804, a Grand Chapter was formed in Vermont without the consent of New York; but in 1806 the General Grand Chapter confirmed the action, and recognized the new Grand Chapter, and admitted it to representation.

"In 1806, the General Grand Chapter changed its name to the 'General Grand Chapter of the United States of America,' and assumed corresponding jurisdiction. Let it be observed that at that time the Grand Chapters which had been created by it were the only ones in the country, except the one subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and probably another which was subordinate in the same manner to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the General Grand Chapter was the only sovereign and supreme body of Royal Arch Masons in the country. It limited the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapters to the States in which they were located, reserving to itself exclusive jurisdiction to grant dispensations and charters in the other States, but provided for the formation of new Grand Chapters upon the warrant of one of the general grand officers. This provision for the formation of Grand Chapters has ever since been retained in the constitution.

"In accordance with this provision the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey,* Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin, were formed by authority of the warrant of a general grand officer, which warrant in terms, or substantially, provided that the Grand Chapter to be formed should be '*subject to the constitution and laws of the General Grand Chapter.*' The re-organization of the Grand Chapter of Vermont in 1849 was by virtue of a similar warrant. The clause providing for retaining the authority of the General Grand Chapter in some of the warrants was very specific: in the case of

*There was a Grand Chapter in New Jersey before 1826, formed under the authority of the General Grand Chapter, but it became extinct, and was never revived, and the present body was formed as if none had ever existed in that State.

Texas it was 'always provided however, *that such Grand Chapter shall conform to, and abide by, the constitution, rules and edicts of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.*' The preamble of the original constitution of the Grand Chapter of Georgia (which was also adopted at its re-organization in 1841) is as follows: 'We, the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Georgia, created and established by authority of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, by and with the consent of the said General Grand Chapter, have agreed to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Georgia; and being duly represented by our respective High Priests * * * * convened * * * pursuant to public notice, and the *powers vested in us by the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America* * * do ordain and declare,' etc. All the Chapters which took part in forming all these Grand Chapters *were created by the General Grand Chapter*, except those in Maine, which were created by the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts while Maine was a part of that commonwealth.

"In Alabama, in 1823, a Grand Chapter was formed by Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter; no previous warrant was obtained, but the proceedings were ratified by the General Grand High Priest. On investigation, however, by the General Grand Chapter in 1826, it was decided that the proceedings were irregular, and the Grand Chapter not legally formed; and it was recommended that a new Grand Chapter be formed. This decision was acquiesced in, the old organization abandoned, and a new Grand Chapter was formed under the warrant of the General Grand High Priest. It became dormant in 1831, and in 1837 the representatives of the several Chapters met and proceeded 'to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter according to the provisions of the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States.'

"A Grand Chapter was formed in the District of Columbia in 1824 by virtue of a warrant from the General Grand High Priest, and his action was confirmed, and the Grand Chapter recognized by the General Grand Chapter in 1826, and received under its jurisdiction. In 1841, this Grand Chapter had ceased to work, and the Chapters were placed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. In 1867, a new Grand Chapter was formed, and became a constituent of the General Grand Chapter.

"The Grand Chapter of Florida was formed by two Chapters chartered by the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and one chartered by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina. As the latter was at the time a constituent of this body, this grant of a charter was unauthorized, and gave just cause of complaint; and the grant of the charters by the Grand Chapter of Virginia was, by the terms of our constitution, an invasion of our jurisdiction; but

all irregularity has been waived for many years, and the Grand Chapter of Florida been recognized; and all questions have been set at rest forever, by her uniting with her sister Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter.

“The Grand Chapters of Kentucky and Missouri were each formed by three Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter, but without any warrant from a general grand officer; the proceedings in Kentucky were approved by two general grand officers (Clinton and Webb), and the action in both cases, upon application, was ratified and confirmed by the General Grand Chapter.

“As before stated, a Grand Chapter probably existed in Maryland before 1806, but the records have not been preserved; references are made to it in the proceedings of the present Grand Chapter as ‘a former Grand Royal Arch Chapter.’ The present Grand Chapter was formed in 1814, and by mutual action of the General Grand Chapter and itself was ‘admitted under the jurisdiction’ of this body, ‘on an equality with the other Grand Chapters,’ and ‘subject to the constitution and regulations of said General Grand Chapter.’

“The Grand Chapter of North Carolina was formed by six Chapters, at least three of which were chartered by the General Grand Chapter, under whose jurisdiction it assumed that it belonged. At its re-organization in 1847, it applied for recognition, which was granted upon condition that it amended its constitution to conform to that of the General Grand Chapter; this was at once done, and its obligations to the General Grand Chapter fully recognized.

“The Grand Chapter of Ohio was formed by two Chapters which had existed before 1798—one Chapter chartered by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and there was another Chapter in the State chartered by the General Grand Chapter. The proceedings were conducted under the advice of Thomas Smith Webb, who, as Deputy General Grand High Priest, approved the formation of the Grand Chapter, and installed its officers; and his action was ratified by the General Grand Chapter.

“The Grand Chapter of South Carolina was formed by two Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter, and one chartered by the Grand Chapter of New York in 1803, before the jurisdiction of State Grand Chapters was limited to their States. No warrant was obtained in advance, but the proceedings were formally approved by Thomas Smith Webb, General Grand King, and the Grand Chapter was represented in the General Grand Chapter at its next convocation.

“Thus it appears that *all the Grand Chapters, except Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, were either created by the General Grand Chapter, or formed by Chapters chartered by it and authorized to form a Grand Chapter solely upon the condi-*

tion of obedience to the constitution and laws of the General Grand Chapter.

"The Grand Chapter of Virginia was formed in 1808, after the General Grand Chapter had undertaken to exercise exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. Consistency would have required it to ignore the Grand Chapter of Virginia, as it did Chapters chartered in other States by the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, but it saw fit not to do so, and has practically recognized that Grand Chapter for many years.

"It needs no more, it seems to me, than this historical statement to show that a constituent of this General Grand Chapter has no more right, legal or moral, to throw off its allegiance, than any subordinate Chapter has to throw off its allegiance to its Grand Chapter."

The General Grand High Priest reported a number of decisions, but they are principally of a kind to say, we think you ought to do this, but if you won't, then do as you please, and it will be equally right. We will not report them.

"The Companions proceeded (by invitation) to the residence of Mrs. James K. Polk, to whom they were severally introduced, and paid their respects to that distinguished lady." A very proper proceeding.

The following from the Committee on Jurisprudence was submitted :

"Your Committee cannot, however, let the occasion pass without an expression of their opinion in reference to the subject of the second decision (substitutes); that, while the use of substitutes was practiced by all the old Chapters, and our fathers in Masonry walked in that way, we regret that a uniformity could not now be observed in this respect. And we disapprove of the legislation of State Grand Chapters forbidding their use, believing that the whole subject should be left to the several Chapters, to use them or not as demanded by the occasion."

We append the vote on the above :

"The yeas and nays were called for, and ordered, on the question of adopting so much of the Report of the Committee as relates to the use of substitutes, with the following result :

"YEAS.—The Grand Chapter of Arkansas 4 votes, California 4, Connecticut 4, Illinois 4, Indiana 4, Iowa 4, Kansas 4, Kentucky 4, Maryland 4, Massachusetts 4, New York 4, South Carolina 4. The General Grand Scribe, General Grand Treasurer, Past Gen-

eral Grand High Priest Austin, and *Past Grand High Priests* Dannelly, Parvin, Luse, Bostwick, and Maxwell, each 1 vote. Total 56.

“NAYS.—The Grand Chapter of Maine 4 votes, Mississippi 4, Nebraska 4, Tennessee 4, Wisconsin 4. The General Grand Secretary, and *Past Grand High Priests* Norris, Wheeler, Perkins, Frizzell, and Wyoming Chapter No 1, each one vote. Total 26.”

The following was adopted as a regulation, and confirms the recommendation of the General Grand High Priest previously referred to:

“3. *Resolved, as a Regulation*, That the General Grand Chapter hereby vests in its Subordinates *Under Dispensation*, full power of discipline over their members, and the right to exercise all the powers of ‘chartered’ Chapters, save the election and installation of officers.”

The following were elected Grand Officers—all of them Companions of experience and intelligence:

- Comp. ELBERT H. ENGLISH,
Little Rock, Arkansas, General Grand High Priest.
- “ JOHN FRIZZELL,
Nashville, Tenn., Deputy General Grand High Priest.
- “ ROBERT F. BOWER,
Keokuk, Iowa, General Grand King.
- “ ALFRED F. CHAPMAN,
Boston, Massachusetts, General Grand Scribe.
- “ JOHN McCLELLAN.
Boston, Massachusetts, General Grand Treasurer.
- “ CHRISTOPHER G. FOX,
Buffalo, New York, General Grand Secretary.
- “ NOBLE D. LARNER,
Washington, D. C., General Grand Captain of the Host.
- “ AUGUSTINE T. SMYTHE,
Charleston, S. C., General Grand Royal Arch Captain.

We have quoted largely from the General Grand Chapter, because we think it will be interesting to our Companions to know who are its officers, what they do, and how they do it, and as we prefer to read the original extracts in the reviews of our cotemporaries, so we give you the originals from their published Proceedings.

CONCLUSION.

We have again closed our Report, it being the fourth we have written since our appointment; and as each Report closed we have felt that we failed to do justice to the subject or ourselves, so in this, the feeling is more pronounced than ever before. We know, however, from experience, that we have a most indulgent auditory, and in that conviction submit it with confidence.

We now beg to take leave of our Companions in the *corps*, having positively declined a re-appointment, for reasons set forth in our last Report, and most sincerely thank you, one and all, for the kindness and consideration shown our crude efforts with the reportorial pen. We again say that we believe the correspondence is the cream of the published Proceedings of the Grand Chapters, and we most earnestly hope ours will select some Companion who will not be hide-bound in his views, or lazy in expressing them. We point again to the reputation of the Grand Chapters who have selected and continued Companions in the position of Chairmen of Committees on Foreign Correspondence, of acknowledged ability, as a justification of our views, and we therefore hope ours will not neglect so important a subject.

Royal Arch Masonry is in a healthy condition throughout the globe, and long, long may it continue so.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM J. KELLY, Chairman.

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